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'MAN OF IMPECCABLE CHARACTER' – SAYS COUNSEL

Local man fined after company ceased trading

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

A BUSINESSMAN who was once the proprietor of a company selling window shutters, has been fined £1,750 and ordered to pay costs of £1,500 at Cardiff Crown Court.

Paul Whitehead (50), a man with no previous convictions, of Heol Maes-yr-Haf, Pencoed, who owned Inner Shade (of Wales) Limited, pleaded guilty to making a misleading omission and falsely stating the company was approved by the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

The company also admitted making a misleading omission and was fined £100.

Whitehead was disqualified from being a company director for two years.

Judge Neil Bidder said: "Consumer regulations are very important to prevent reckless trading.

"You had intended to run a decent business, but you received some poor advice. You are a decent family man."

He added: "You need to think very carefully before you embark upon running a company."

Prosecutor Lee Bowyer, acting for Bridgend Trading Standards, said the company had offered the installation of window shutters to Mrs Danielle Beck of Torfaen, who had contacted the company in 2010.

The defendant provided a quotation of £3,272.

But, said Mr Bowyer, she was not informed she had a right to cancel the contract within a certain period.

However, a few days after being given the quotation, she said she wanted the company to go ahead and was asked for a 50 per cent deposit, because the blinds were "uniquely made".

The payment was duly made, but she became concerned at the lack of contact with the defendant.

In August, she called him and he said he had suffered a family bereavement.

She was later unable to contact him again, and eventually got in touch via an answering machine, after which she called Consumer Direct Wales.

She later received correspondence saying the company had no funds and had ceased trading.

At that point, Bridgend Trading Standards began an investigation.

They discovered that the company at the time was not approved by the Guild of Master Craftsmen.

Whitehead later said the company had gone down because of lack of orders and cash flow problems, and the blinds which had been ordered had not been made.

The court was told that Whitehead later said that he was "robbing Peter to pay Paul".

Many customers, said Mr Bowyer, had been refunded payments.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

Local pupils' colourful Easter celebration

Picture by RANDELL JOHN

Cefn Glas infants' school in Bridgend took advantage of the fine weather last week to hold an Easter bonnet parade. (SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 7).

Jail for man who forced woman to take tablets

by AJ SICLUNA

A YOUNG woman who was attacked by her partner, took an overdose of anti-depressant tablets after he locked her in the home.

Later, when she told 26-year-old Warren Rees what she had done, he forced her to take more of the pills and poured a soft drink down her throat, said prosecutor David Thomas at Cardiff Crown Court.

Rees, of Brynheulog Court, Brynmenyn, Bridgend, was jailed for a total of two years.

He admitted charges of administering a noxious substance, assault, and perverting the course of justice. He was also in breach of a suspended sentence for four charges of assault on her.

Recorder Winston Roddick QC said: "The attack on her was unprovoked. You must have realised an overdose of these tablets could have had a serious effect on her."

He said he did not believe Rees had any lasting remorse for what he had done.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Newton phone mast group agree plan of action

AT a packed meeting in Newton this week (Tuesday) residents made it clear that they will continue to oppose a plan to erect a phone mast on the grass verge that runs along Aldenham Road.

More than 50 local people were in the hall to hear that they plan to accept the need for a mast in the area, but will argue strongly that a less visually intrusive site should be chosen.

The meeting, which was chaired by local town councillor Graham Walter, was told that a UK Government drive to give comprehensive 3G coverage had identified Newton as a weak area, and the 02 mast is intended to cover this gap.

Residents were told that, with similar masts all over the UK, it was pointless mounting a campaign on health grounds.

However, it is felt that the decision can be challenged on procedural grounds. The group has already contacted the Ombudsman to start this ball rolling.

At the meeting was regional AM, Byron Davies, who has taken up the issue on behalf of the residents, and has written to Bridgend County Borough Council chief executive Dr Jo Farrar to raise his concerns.

(SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3).

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TOO MANY WOMEN ARE BEING SENT TO PRISON

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive report from Westminster for The GEM.

AS always, life is hectic, with no shortage of controversial legislation to consider, or a Budget to pick apart.

As is often the case, the full ramifications of the Bills the Government has introduced will only be felt once they are implemented, and the minutiae of the Budget is only slowly being understood.

The impact of changes for local families will take a while to sort through – but in the meantime, we have had '*pastygate*', '*kitchen suppergate*', '*petrolgate*' and other headlines to distract us all from the harsh realities of some of the changes.

Away from the House of Commons chamber, however, I have been involved in taking evidence from a wide range of organisations, as part of an inquiry looking at girls and the criminal justice system.

In spite of what the headlines may say, most girls do not commit crime and by the same token, girls are not becoming more violent.

However, for the girls who come into contact with the criminal justice system, their experience is often destructive and does nothing to prevent them re-offending in the future.

Mention punishing criminals and the reaction is overwhelmingly in favour of prison. Governments over the years of all colours have always sought to prove themselves to be tough on crime and security, and any Home Secretary brave or perhaps foolish enough to question otherwise would not last very long.

However, we are reaching a tipping point. Our prisons are virtually full. Reoffending rates remain high. Perhaps we need to contemplate new approaches.

In 2007, a report by Baroness Corston looked at women in the criminal justice system. She concluded that: *"There are many women in prison, either on remand or serving sentences for minor, non-violent offences, for whom prison is both disproportionate and inappropriate.*

"Many of them suffer poor physical and mental health or substance abuse, or both. Large numbers have endured violent or sexual abuse or had chaotic childhoods."

The aim of the inquiry I am involved in is to look at ways to prevent girls ending up in prison, but if they commit crime, how best to deal with them. We were shocked by the numbers of girls under 16 who had been arrested in England and Wales, some 50,000 a year.

Police officers often end up arresting girls for welfare reasons: to get them off the streets. Research has shown that this initial contact often ends up with an entrenched link with the criminal justice system.

The panel has taken evidence from organisations from all over England and Wales. The consensus among them is that factors such as parental conflict, truancy, bullying, low-self esteem and living in a high crime area create circumstances where girls find themselves in trouble.

The overriding conclusion is that early intervention is essential in order to allow girls to reach their full potential and avoid becoming another statistic.

Organisations such as Platform 51 or programmes of intensive fostering as alternatives to custodial sentences offer solutions, which crucially are significantly cheaper in the long run than incarceration.

Time for some fresh thinking.

Changes to the legal profession and its funding is hitting local firms of solicitors hard. Some mortgage companies are insisting that house purchase conveyancy is undertaken by their single contracted solicitor.

Those who are taking out a mortgage can still use their own solicitor, but only if they also pay the fees of the mortgage companies firm. For those of us who prefer to keep all of our legal affairs with our local trusted firm of solicitors, this is not good news.

The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders (LASPO) Bill is returning to the House of Commons on April 17 after 11 defeats in the House of Lords. The first part of the Bill is about restricting what Legal Aid can be used for.

The Government have chosen not to target the enormous criminal Legal Aid budget and instead gone after funding for local law centres and Citizens Advice Bureaux.

The total 'cost' of the amendments is less than £25 million. But the cost of not helping people with welfare benefits queries or helping children navigate the justice system is so much more. Even the Taxpayers' Alliance is opposed to the cuts.

The second part of the Bill is about reforming the civil justice system on 'no-win, no-fee' cases to fix whiplash fraud and lower motor insurance. But the Government is also forcing victims of industrial diseases such as mesothelioma to pay vast chunks of their damages to lawyers and insurers.

As an example, in a mesothelioma case, a cancer caused by asbestos exposure that kills on average in 18 months, the general damages would be circa £65,000.

The victim's lawyer will now be able to take up to 25 per cent. And their After-the-Event (ATE) insurer, who insures the claimant in case his action fails, will take an unlimited sum for the premium.

The last few weeks have also seen a raft of briefings about the future of the Royal Mail and the Post Office. It won't have escaped anyone's attention that the price of stamps will rise significantly from April 30.

Whether we like it or not, Royal Mail is loss-making. We are sending fewer letters as increasingly we communicate electronically. Away from the headlines, fundamental changes are afoot that will affect our local post offices.

Branches are being reorganised. Smaller ones will be moved into shops. People living in rural areas may find they have to travel further afield for services.

Fears have been expressed that this programme will result in fewer services being available and the future of the network many rely on being gambled away.

Worryingly, there is no consultation on this, and changes to a national institution are already well under way.

I hope you all have a very Happy Easter and that the sun returns to help us all enjoy the break.

Friendly debate on nuclear power in Porthcawl

SUSTAINABLE Wales stages a "friendly, non-technical debate on UK nuclear power," at 8pm on Friday, April 6 in The Green Room, 41 John Street, Porthcawl.

It will be led by Dr Steve Harris of the Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems. Other guest contributors include Dr Philippa Winkler and Daniel Robicheau.

Sustainable Wales' director Margaret Mimhinnick said: "Scientists and environmentalists agree: the most urgent task facing humanity in the 21st Century is to decarbonise the global economy, ensuring that we can generate enough energy to supply the reasonable needs of 7-9 billion people without destroying the environment.

"While an overwhelming majority of the scientific community advocate nuclear as part of clean energy generation, many environmentalists disagree.

"They cite safety, waste disposal and economic costs as reasons to abandon, rather than improve, the nuclear programme.

"Who is right? Is it possible to create a clean energy economy without nuclear? Are the scientists who advocate a nuclear techno-fix irresponsible?

"Or, has the anti-nuclear movement played into the hands of the fossil-fuel lobby? What about Peak Oil? After a year in which greenhouse emissions reached an all-time high and Germany decided to go non-nuclear, how should the UK proceed?"

Entrance to the public is by donation to Sustainable Wales. Contact 01656 783405 for further information.

BRIDGEND QUIZ LEAGUE

Favourites come away with the Cup

THE finals of the KO Cup and Plate competitions took place at Tondu Railway Club on Monday, March 26.

In the Cup, Llangewydd Arms were hot favourites and so it proved. After 10 questions, they had built a useful lead of 22-12 and after the individual round led by 30-16.

When the 20 question mark and roll-up round had been passed it was 50-31 in their favour, increasing steadily in the last 10 to finish up winners by 62-38.

The plate final, a second division versus first division affair was duly won by the seniors Oldcastle A who beat Coychurch Wanderers by 48-42.

Here are your four weekly posers:

1. In which Dickens novel does Inspector Bucket investigate the murder of lawyer Tulkinghorne?

2. Which Austrian composer wrote the 'Trout' quartet?

3. What is the significance of the British horse racing courses Lingfield Park, Southwell, Kempton Park, Wolverhampton and Great Leighs?

4. John Profumo held which Cabinet position at the time of the 1963 scandal?

A RUDGE (for Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1. Bleak House.
2. Schubert.
3. All-weather tracks.
4. War Secretary.

Broadlands School celebrates 10th 'birthday' with an anniversary mural

Staff members and pupils with the 10th anniversary mural.

A MURAL made by pupils at Maes Yr Haul Primary School, Broadlands, Bridgend, has been unveiled to mark its 10th anniversary.

The school started life with 145 pupils on the estate, but now has 550 pupils, eight extra classrooms and a new hall.

The celebrations culminated with an open school event for parents and the local community, and the unveiling of the giant mural made from 262 tiny tiles created by KS2 pupils.

Fired at nearby Ewenny Pottery, each handmade tile was individually designed and reflect special events such as the Olympics, the rise of new technology and the children's own interests.

The mural depicts the school's sunshine logo – a symbol based on a fossil which was discovered when the foundations were excavated. The logo's seven rays symbolise the number of languages spoken in the school.

Headteacher Margaret Lugg said: "The 10th anniversary celebrations have confirmed that Maes Yr Haul is a vibrant centre of learning offering wide ranging experiences for children and adults alike. We are very much a community school, successfully serving the families of Broadlands."

A special guest was Maes yr Haul's founding head, Pam Mahoney, who returned to the school to join in the celebrations.

She said: "It's amazing to think that the school has grown so much. On our first day every member of staff wore a name badge, as we realised no one had any idea who we were! I was delighted to share this very special day and having walked around the school I can see that Maes yr Haul continues to be a dynamic place where the energy, enthusiasm, skills and talents of the pupils and the staff are developed and celebrated. I wish the school every success for the next 10 years and beyond."

Walks, talks and a peep into past

THE Coity WI meeting was opened by president Lyn Griffiths and Sylvia Tamlyn, then surprised outgoing president Mary Poland with a gift and vote of thanks in recognition of her capable leadership and hard work on behalf of Coity WI.

The Link meeting at Pencoed was very well attended and was a great success. Some of our Coity members took part in the Cardiff City guided walk, starting at the City Hall and ending, via a circuitous route, at Bute Park.

The walking group, opened their season early with a walk from St Brides to Castle-upon-Alun and on to Ewenny, where they then made a determined effort to replace the calories with coffee and cake.

The speaker for the March meeting was Mr Neville Thomas of Bridgend. A native of Carmarthen, Mr Thomas both entertained and informed us as he recalled his youthful adventures as a coracle fisherman on the Towy.

Members were fascinated by the coracle Mr Thomas had brought with him and which he had made from traditional materials, a skill he has passed on to his son. The evening was a rare glimpse into a way of life that is sadly passing.

The next meeting will be on April 25 when Mr R Bailey-Wood will give a talk on orchids.

Coity WI meets at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of the month at Coity Church Hall, and welcomes new members.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
05 Thur	06.59	9.4	19.24	9.6
06 Fri	07.43	10.1	20.09	10.2
07 Sat	08.29	10.4	20.53	10.4
08 Sun	09.13	10.6	21.36	10.4
09 Mon	09.59	10.4	22.21	10.3
10 Tues	10.42	10.0	23.02	9.8
11 Wed	11.27	9.6	23.49	9.4
12 Thur			12.16	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Maesteg man's 'drug' offences

AN UNDERCOVER police operation in the centre of Bridgend resulted in a man being arrested for offering to supply what was believed to be the class A drug 'heroin'.

Cardiff Crown Court heard that when the substance was analysed, it was found to be completely harmless, and was not heroin at all.

Thomas Barlow (43) of Charles Row, Maesteg, admitted two charges of offering to supply heroin and was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, suspended for two years, and made subject to a two-year supervision order.

Judge Rhys Rowlands told him: "All concerned believed he was supplying heroin, but it was not. You were trying to fund your own heroin habit.

"On any view, if you stand back and look at it, this was an extremely serious offence.

"People who supply heroin are likely to go to prison for a long time."

But, said the judge, Barlow had already been on remand for 103 days, and played a lesser role in the incident.

Prosecutor John Probert said the undercover operation took place on February 2 last year.

The officer concerned met a man and a woman who agreed to introduce him to a drug dealer. They went to a quiet area and the officer bought a number of wraps of ''heroin' from Barlow, but analysis revealed it was not.

Barlow was said to have convictions for 46 offences, including possessing drugs.

Mr Probert said the other two involved received custodial sentences for supplying drugs: "Their offending went beyond what happened on this occasion, and involved other offences on other dates," he said.

His counsel, Ieuan Rees, said: "He is not a regular drug dealer.

"Unfortunately, he has been a heroin addict for five years and, at the time, was using it heavily. His offences have been acquisitive in order to fund the habit."

He was also directed to undertake a drugs rehabilitation scheme for nine months.

Man threatened PCSOs with broken bottle

TWO community support officers were threatened when they approached a man clutching a broken bottle outside a Bridgend supermarket.

Andrew Frampton (30) shouted at them: "Come any closer, and I'll have you."

Frampton, formerly of Heol Glannant, Bettws, Bridgend, currently living in Parkside, Dorset, admitted using threatening words and behaviour.

He was sentenced to a community order for two years involving two years' supervision and directed to carry out 60 hours unpaid work.

Said judge Neil Bidder: "The officers were concerned about you, but you threatened them with that bottle."

Prosecutor David Thomas said that about 11.10pm on November 27, the officers were outside the Asda Store and became concerned about Frampton, who was holding the bottle and bleeding from his forearm.

He became aggressive, made threats, pointed the bottle at them and ran off.

"He was later arrested on the roof of a building and said he had wanted to be alone and had a number of issues to be dealt with."

Mr Thomas said he was originally charged with possessing an offensive weapon. It was stated he had convictions for 23 offences, including robbery, causing a breach of the peace, for drugs offences, dishonesty and having a bladed item.

"It is a serious record," said Mr Thomas.

He was said to be in breach of a community order imposed last year for having bladed articles.

His counsel, Byron Broadstock, said: "For two years he had been diagnosed with depression."

The judge added: "This is the second occasion in a public place that, because of a desire to cause yourself harm, you caused great concern to other people."

Super run for GLAZE charity!

Supt Paul James — running for GLAZE.

A SENIOR South Wales police officer donned his running shoes on Monday – to raise money for GLAZE Prostate Charity Wales.

Paul James, Superintendent for Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan, took to the hills, tracks and puddles of the Forest of Dean to run the renowned half marathon for the charity.

The gruelling cross terrain run saw nearly 3,000 runners take to the track on Sunday morning at Speech House, Gloucestershire.

Supt James, who has served in the Bridgend and Vale area since 1994, ran on behalf of the Mayor of the County Borough of Bridgend, Coun Christopher Michaelides.

Supt James said: "Those people who know the Mayor are aware that he has given a lifetime of devoted public service to his community in many different ways, from teaching people to drive, running a business, supporting charities and holding local office.

"What people may not know – because Mayor Michaelides will never complain – is that he has been fighting his own battle with cancer during his Mayoral year of office."

"In honour of Mayor Michaelides' courage, strength and commitment to his communities, I have arranged to run the half marathon to raise money for one of his chosen charities, GLAZE."

GLAZE Prostate Charity Wales is the leading charity in Wales working with medical professionals in the fight against all prostate diseases, benign and malignant.

Its mission is to raise awareness, promote understanding and fund both the latest medical equipment and the training of healthcare professionals. Donations can be made via www.justgiving.com/runningforthemayor.

Two choirs in concert

TABERNACL Music Society joined with Noteworthy, the Maesteg mixed choir, to give a delightful concert.

Directed by Kevin Adams and accompanied by Steven Burgess on piano and organ, they sang a variety of songs, including pieces by John Rutter and Karl Jenkins, as well as work from traditional composers; Mendelssohn and Dvorak.

Bob Chilcott's 'A Little Jazz Mass', which the choir performed at their last concert, was well worth a second airing, particularly with the added accompaniment of a jazz bass and timpani.

Members of Noteworthy combined to produce an impressively unified and smooth sound. The choir's founder and director, Ryan Wood, accompanied the soloist for the evening, Charlotte Ellett, so the deputy director, Susan M Heffey, took over the baton.

The accompanist was Rhian Jenkins and the choir was introduced by Tony Mullins.

Noteworthy's programme contained traditional hymns such as 'Builth', a new arrangement by Jeffrey Howard, and Eric Jones' 'Y Tangnefeddwyr', as well as lively and modern songs like 'Don't Sit Under The Apple Tree' and 'Blow Gabriel Blow' from the musical 'Anything Goes'.

Charlotte Ellett, born in Llantwit Major, performed soprano arias from 'Carmen' and 'La Boheme' as well as the Bach /Gounod's 'Ave Maria' and 'We'll Gather Lilacs' by Ivor Novello.

The concert ended with a spirited performance of Rutter's 'When The Saints Go Marching In'.

The next concert is on June 17.

'WHY THIS GO-AHEAD?' ACTION GROUP DEMAND

AM tackles council over mobile phone mast

SHADOW Welsh Regeneration minister Byron Davies is backing Newton residents in calling for answers about the way that Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) handled a controversial planning application for a mobile telephone mast.

Residents contacted Mr Davies, who is a Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, after plans for a mast on the grass verge at Aldenham Road were approved by officers without reference to the Development Control Committee.

He has now written to council chief executive Dr Jo Farrar to ask why a decision was taken under delegated powers when local member Coun Ken Watts had objected.

Coun Watts was supported by 44 written objections and a petition with 47 signatures. Porthcawl Town Council had also objected.

Residents have pointed out that previous applications for a mast in this vicinity have been dealt with by committee and have been repeatedly refused.

The Newton Action Group is now demanding answers from Dr Farrar. They have asked who decided to use delegated powers on this occasion and why that decision was made.

The group is calling for this decision to be put on hold until these questions have been answered in view of the strong feelings among residents and councillors. They are offering to help the developers find a more suitable location.

Mr Davies has now added his voice to the chorus of people demanding answers.

Mr Davies said: "There are very strong views in the community on this matter. Coun Ken Watts has done his best to represent the objections of the community to this application and previous ones which have been successfully resisted.

"We need to know why the council failed to refer this application to councillors via the Development Control Committee as in the past. What prompted a different approach to this particular application?"

Yasmine wins women's design competition

ABOVE: YASMINE JONES

A STUDENT from Porthcawl has won a national design contest launched by the women's economic development agency, Chwarae Teg.

Yasmine Jones (18), an art and design student from Bridgend College, beat three other finalists from across Wales to be become joint winner of the Chwarae Teg Design Contest. The announcement was made at Chwarae Teg's 20th anniversary celebrations at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea.

To mark its 20th year, Chwarae Teg has launched an exhibition at the museum, detailing the history of the organisation and progression of women in the workforce. Yasmine's winning entry will is being showcased as part of the three month exhibition, open to the public.

The entrants were challenged to create a piece of work that reflected the theme of fair play for women, using Chwarae Teg's logo, which features the green and purple ribbons of the Suffragette movement.

Yasmine submitted a photograph of a woman grasping hold of two inter-linked scarfs in Chwarae Teg's logo colours.

Yasmine said: "I've never won anything before, so it was great to be rewarded for doing something I really enjoy. In my entry, I captured a woman's hands tightly gripping the knotted scarf to show that women can be strong as well as feminine.

"It is also very exciting to know that my work will be seen by thousands of visitors of museum. I'm looking forward to including this winning piece in my portfolio when I apply to study fine art at university."

Bridgend police in crack down on the fake IDs

BRIDGEND police are cracking down on the use of fake or borrowed ID to gain entry to pubs and clubs in the town.

Officers are working closely in partnership with licensed premises managers and door supervisors to tackle the issue over the coming summer months.

Those specifically targeted by the campaign are under-age drinkers using ID borrowed from friends and relatives.

Sergeant Claire Lamerton, licensing officer for Bridgend, said: "Many people do not realise that by using fake or borrowed ID, they are actually breaking the law. Those found using such documents are liable to arrest and could find themselves in front of a magistrates' court."

Officers are also keen to emphasise that using false ID can leave you with a hefty bill as well as a criminal record.

"If we take possession of a passport, for example, it will be returned to the Passport and Identity Agency and destroyed. It costs £77.50 for a new one, so the repercussions can be costly." Sergeant Lamerton added.

As part of the initiative, School Liaison Officers will be conducting classroom talks with local teenagers to deter them from using false ID.

Posters will also be on display around town centre venues to warn people of the consequences.

Kids cycle to save parents fuel cash

CHILDREN from schools across Bridgend have helped to save parents across the UK over £368,000 in unnecessary fuel costs in just three weeks, by helping to cycle a total of a million miles to school.

The journeys were made as part of Sustrans' Big Pedal – the UK's biggest school cycling competition backed by world cycling champion Mark Cavendish, and involving more than a thousand schools around the country.

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Fears that Porthcawl regeneration scheme could come to nothing

CONTINUING delays to the start of the Porthcawl regeneration scheme is causing concern to two borough members from the town.

Councillors Ken Watts and Rosemary Deere brought Shadow Regeneration Minister Byron Davies to Porthcawl to have a look at where it is proposed to build the new Tesco supermarket.

Mr Davies has already met members of the Civic Trust Society and Porthcawl SHOUT who have raised concerns with him about the proposed allocation of the money raised from the sale of the land to Tesco, among other issues.

Councillors have had an update on regeneration at a meeting last week. Coun Deere said that there were fears in the town that the scheme could fall through as nothing has yet been signed with Tesco, who have also failed to lodge a planning application for their new store to date.

'The owners' agreement between the council and the Evans Families has been signed so that for the first time ever, all the land involved within the regeneration area has been tied up," she said.

"We have received assurances that the Tesco scheme is still on track, but that their board still have to approve the project."

Coun Watts said that they had been told that if the Tesco scheme does fall through at the last minute, there is a plan B: "Officers have been looking at other options although they are confident that the Tesco deal will go through. So it's a matter of wait and see."

Both members welcome the news that money has been found by the council to carry out the £3m harbour improvements – whether or not money from the regeneration scheme is available.

"This will be the first major scheme carried out in Porthcawl for some time, " added Coun Deere. "This work is starting now and we have also been told that the marketing of Jennings Building will go hand in glove with that."

Coun Watts said that he supported attempts to see if a restaurant or hotel could be established in the listed building which stands alongside the harbour.

"It is a prime location and we must ensure that whatever goes there will draw in visitors and boost the town's tourism potential. Nothing has been done to broaden Porthcawl's appeal for many years. Having a new Tesco will certainly not bring the visitors flocking, so we need something to act as a focal point and a draw."

Both councillors are keeping a watching brief on the whole regeneration issue and Mr Davies is also following things up with the council himself.

He added: "As Shadow regeneration minister, but also as a regional AM for South Wales West, I am keen to see something done to regenerate Porthcawl.

"It is long overdue and I understand that previous schemes became bogged down and in the end came to nothing. Everything must be done to ensure that this does not happen again."

The Bridgend Soroptimists had an informative day out in the Neath Valley.

Soroptimists' day in Neath Valley

ON Wednesday, March 28, Bridgend Soroptimists enjoyed a trip to Aberdulais Falls in the Neath Valley.

They were given a detailed history of how, in the 16th century, the power from the magnificent water falls provided energy for the production of copper and, latterly, tin, before closure in the 20th century.

A tour of the grounds, still under restoration, was followed by afternoon tea in the delightful tearooms. **EB**

BRIDGEND MAN JAILED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Mr Thomas said: "Rees and 22-year-old Nadine Jones had had a relationship for two years. In January, he went to a party next door to their home and became drunk.

"She remonstrated with him and he punched her in the face, causing her to hit her head against a wall.

"He left, locking her in. She became very depressed and took an overdose of tablets, which had been prescribed for Rees, causing her to become dizzy and groggy."

He returned to the home and she asked for help.

He responded by saying: "Take some more, I'll hit you."

He then forced her to take more tablets and poured a soft drink down her throat.

He left, leaving his mobile phone, and she called an ambulance.

She was admitted to the Princess of Wales Hospital and discharged the following day.

The tablets, said Mr Thomas, could have affected her heart and liver. When arrested, Rees said he had drunk eight cans of lager.

He said he left her in the flat because "he didn't want anything to do with it."

On a previous occasion, he had locked her in a bathroom and assaulted her.

Mr Thomas said that while in prison, he wrote her two letters telling her not to turn up and give evidence in court.

He was said to have convictions for 42 offences, 13 of which were for violence.

His barrister, Jeff Jones, said: "He was drunk and irrational and there was no pre-planning.

"The drug itself was not illegal and the effect on her was not as serious as it might have been.

"Both have been hot and cold to each other," he added.

Mr Jones said: "What he did was mean, cruel, and dangerous."

Foodbank receives a cheque from MP

RIGHT: Madeleine Moon with Gerald Manners.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited the Bridgend Foodbank recently with a cheque to help support them.

She said: "My recent Populus questionnaire cheque goes to the Bridgend Foodbank. This is the third cheque I have passed to the Foodbank over the last two years.

"Gerald Manners and his team are increasing the food collection points across the borough with support from local supermarkets Sainsbury's, Co-op and ASDA. Generous customers can deposit food they have bought at the supermarkets in the big green boxes supplied by the Foodbank."

The food is then collected for distribution to their six foodbank centres across the borough which are:

Bridgend Centre: 79A Nolton St, Bridgend, open Mondays and Tuesdays from 10am-2pm, and Fridays from 11am-2pm.

Cornelly Centre: Cornelly Community Church, 5 Greenfield Terrace, Cornelly, open Thursdays from 1pm-3pm.

Bettws Centre: Saint David's Church, Bettws Road, Bettws, open Wednesdays from 9am-11am. Porthcawl Centre: Griffin Park Community Centre, Griffin Park, Porthcawl, open Fridays from 10am-12 noon.

Pontycymmer Centre: Tabernacle Chapel, Meadow Street, Pontycymmer, open Fridays from 11am-2pm.

Maesteg Centre: Peniel Evangelical Church, Station Street, Maesteg, open Fridays from 11am-3pm.

The Foodbank can be contacted on 01656 858713 or by emailing: bridgendfoodbank@aol.co.uk.

Children performing in Pirates of the Curry Bean.

End of term for Stagecoach

STAGECOACH Theatre Arts are celebrating their end-of-term by producing five performances in four days, with a total of 289 children performing!

Principal Rob Reynolds said: "We are so proud of all the children for their wonderful work and progress this term, culminating in memorable performances of the musical *Pirates of the Curry Bean*.

"Alongside the performances, 139 of the children chose to take new 'Performance Arts Awards' and two examiners attended the shows to award the qualification."

Plans are well under way for next term's weekly classes, along with LAMDA exams and performances planned at St David's Hall and the Wales Millennium Centre.

Bridgend Bridge Club latest results

THE results for Bridgend Bridge Club for recent evenings are: Wednesday March 28: First – Dave Barwood and Wendy Williams; Second – Norma and David Newman; Third – Tony and Emer Disley.

Friday March 30: First – Mary Moore and Liam Sheridan; Second – Mari Jones and Irene Wickham; Third – Barrie Jenkins and Connie Jenkins.

Congratulations to Dave and Debbi Lea who won the special evening for improvers and those new to duplicate bridge, Margaret Grannum and Joyce Chatterton were second with Joy Partridge and David Newman third.

In addition to the regular club nights on Wednesday and Friday evenings at 7pm at Nolton Church Hall there are lessons for beginners on Fridays at 7.30pm with Graham Jones and for improvers on Wednesdays at 2.30pm with John Beard.

To register an interest call: John Beard (01446 771445), Graham Jones (01446 775952), Steve Burgoyne (01656 661958) or David Newman (01656 649138).

There will be no Bridge this Friday (April 6) as it is Good Friday.

Who wants to build what and where in the borough?

Mrs G O'Dononvan – **Old Vicarage, Vicarage Terrace, Maesteg** – Program of works to several trees including felling, removal of deadwood, crown lift, etc (2007 BCBC no 02).

Mr John Whitbread – **29 Ysbryd y Coed, Penyfai** – Fell tree.

Mr Adrian Dethridge – **71 Oakfield Terrace, Nantymoel** – Demolish existing garage and erect new with sloping roof.

Ms L Horgan – **238 New Road, Porthcawl** – Rear ground floor extension.

Principality Building Society – **23 John Street, Porthcawl** – Extension to rear and refurbishment to upper floor units to create five additional apartments.

Mr N Hegarty – **38A Dunraven Place, Bridgend** – Proposed demolition of 38A Dunraven Place.

Mr and Mrs Jenkins – **Tearoom, Ewenny Pottery, Ewenny** – Change of use from a tearoom to an artist studio workshop and storage.

Mrs Rabeka Rahman – **48 Penybont Road, Pencoed** – Relax Condition 2 of consent P/93/52/FUL to extend opening hours to 0000 hours Sunday to Thursday and 0100 hours Friday to Saturday.

Mr Charles Davies – **43 Garnwen Terrace, Maesteg** – Rear dormer extension.

Barratt Homes South Wales – **Parc Tyn y Coed, Sarn** – Relax Condition 15 of 06/665 to remove requirement of secondary access to Chilcott Avenue.

Mr Neil Hughes – **39 St John Street, Ogmore Vale** – Proposed bathroom extension to rear.

Mr Christopher Thomas – **Llwyn-On, Heol Byeastwood, Coity** – Conversion of storage building to three-bedroom dwelling.

G T Developments Ltd – **Cae Barbara Field, Smallholding Lane, Coity** – Stables, menage and access road.

Mr John Gould – **57 Cefn Glas Road, Bridgend** – Single storey rear extension to provide shower room and associated works.

Mr Anthony Smith – **9C High Street, Ogmore Vale** – Relax Condition 3 of P/08/752/FUL to alter opening time.

Mr Abuzer Baykara – **Bryncethin General Store, Bridgend Road, Bryncethin** – Change of use of post office into a kebab house takeaway.

Mr Gerald Edwards – **The Coppins, Bryncethin** – Proposed dormer window to front elevation of detached bungalow.

Mr and Mrs Tim Williams – **119 Merlin Crescent, Bridgend** – Loft conversion with dormers to front and rear elevations and entrance porch.

Mr D M Mathias – **Parcau Isaf Farm, Laleston** – Adjust approved works and parking area (P/10/392/FUL), alter store for use as wood storage.

Mr and Mrs Bridges – **24 Westfield Crescent, Porthcawl** – Two storey extension.

Mr B David – **Dental Surgery, 88 Pisgah Street, Kenfig Hill** – Proposed single storey extension.

Mr C Tossell – **39 Pyle Inn Way, Pyle** – Single storey rear side extension.

AMSS – **Heol Mostyn, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle** – Portal framed storage area.

Mrs J Hamblin – **16 Pyle Inn Way, Pyle** – New external ramp plus shower room conversion.

Mr R A Jones – **Tabernacle Church, Katie Street, Blaengarw** – Change of use from church into a domestic dwelling with granny annexe.

Support group meets

BRIDGEND Glaucoma Patient Support Group's next meeting will be on Friday, May 11, 1pm-3.30pm, in rooms 1-2 MPEC, Princess of Wales Hospital.

CAT ADOPTION CENTRE'S EASTER EVENT SUCCESS

CATS Protection's Bridgend Adoption Centre recently held an Eggstravaganza.

It was one of their most successful events. A total of 370 visitors attended on the day, including Coun Jeff Tildesley, and more than £2,100 was raised.

Homes were found for 13 cats, with many people planning a return visit to adopt a cat or kitten.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the Easter egg hunt and were thrilled to be met by the Easter Bunny at the end of the trail, handing out chocolate eggs.

SUE DOBBS, centre manager

Operation Bernie entertains, but with a message

Operation Bernie aims to teach children the dangers and consequences of deliberately starting fires.

THE latest phase of an ongoing project which aims to reduce the number of grass and mountain fires started by young people during the school holidays has been launched in the Maesteg valley.

Operation Bernie will be offering children in the Caerau area the chance to take part in a wide range of fun events over the Easter holidays, from BMX riding to dancing and DJing.

The events will provide a platform for fire and police officers to educate the children about the dangers and damage caused by deliberately starting fires, as well as the consequences.

Youngsters taking part in the project will also receive a special Bernie hoodie and will be given the opportunity to find out what it's like to be a fire fighter.

The project is run by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service in partnership with Safer Bridgend, local schools, BCBC Youth Service, Communities First and South Wales Police.

You can find out more about Bernie and this Easter's full list of events at www.bernie.uk.com or follow Bernie on Twitter @BernieSWFRS.

Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012
Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk

Mrs Maow is waiting

"HELLO, I am Mrs Maow.

"I have been at the Bridgend Cats Adoption Centre since last August, and the staff at the centre can't understand why, as I am a sweet girl.

"I came here to find new loving home after my owners moved.

"I would suit a quiet home where I can enjoy the creature comforts.

"Please don't let me see another summer here!"

'Please can we stay together?' *TWO PALS PLEAD*

The GEM is in partnership with the Dog's Trust to find caring homes for animals in their charge at Bridgend Rehoming Centre ***(Telephone: 01656 725219)***

PANCAKE and Harriet are a pair of four-year-old collies looking for a home together, as they have lived together all their lives. A spokeswoman said: "They are here through no fault of their own.

They are both bright little sparks, and are both well trained and keen to please.

"They are house-trained and fine to be left for a few hours. They are good on and off the lead, and would suit most families who are active."

To offer Pancake and Harriet a home together, telephone 01656 725219, or visit – Dogs Trust, Court Colman, Pen-y-fai, Bridgend, CF31 4NG.

We are open Tuesday to Sunday, 12 noon-4pm, and from April 4, will be opening until 8pm on Wednesdays.

Pals Pancake and Harriet are looking for a home together.

Broadlands' residents

THE next meeting of the Broadlands Residents' Association (Cymbeithas Trigolion Broadlands) is on Tuesday April 17 in the Loft Lounge, from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

All residents of the Broadlands are welcome. For more information, visit www.broadlandsresidents.org or join th group on Facebook!

Did you know you can read your GEM online?

bridgend-today.co.uk

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Table tennis

MANY congratulations to Caitlyn Williams, a young lady who lives in Dinam Street, Nantymoel.

She represented Wales in the under-15 age group in the table tennis Six Nations Championships. Unfortunately, she lost in the semi-finals to the eventual winner.

She is a member of both Nantymoel Boys and Girls' Club and Bridgend Table Tennis Club.

Maesteg Amateur Operatic Society

THIS wonderful group will be presenting a concert, 'Get Happy', with special guests Curtain Up Youth Theatre at St Michael and All Angels Church on Friday, April 20 at 7.15pm. Tickets are £6 and can be obtained from members of both organisations.

New choir

BOIS Goetre-Hen a'r Cylch (Coytrahen Male Voice Choir) only came into existence in August 2009, and recently won a competition at the Taunton and Somerset music festival.

The adjudicator, Robert Latham, awarded the choir 89 points, equivalent to a certificate of distinction.

On Saturday, March 24 the choir took a long journey to compete in the 50th anniversary Minsterly Eisteddfod in Shropshire.

It was an arduous day, with the choir actually appearing on stage at 10.50pm.

The adjudicators Robin Mundy and Alun Guy, awarded Bois Goetre-Hen 85 points and they gained third place in the open choir category against very strong competition.

The winners were the Montgomery-based chamber choir 'Quindici', and the runners-up the Shrewsbury mixed voice choir – 'Of One Accord'.

The secretary of Bois Goetre-Hen, Richard Howells, is of the opinion that competing in events such as at Minsterly improves the performance of the choir.

Having noted the comments of the judges, Mr Mundy in particular, it will help the choir focus on its performance at future events.

The choir welcomes visitors and prospective new members at any rehearsal in the Philip Squire Community Centre, Coytrahen, on Sundays between 6pm and 8pm, and Aberkenfig Social and Athletic Club on Tuesdays between 7.15pm and 9.00pm.

Ogmore Valley male voice choir

THE choir would like to congratulate Gareth Card and Kate Chamberlain and thank them for being invited to lead the hymn singing at their wedding in St David's Church, Wyndham on Saturday, March 31, and wish them a long and happy marriage.

The weekend before, the choir travelled to Manchester to take part in the Golden Anniversary of the Thousand Voice Festival of Welsh choirs in the MEN arena.

The audience of approximately four to five thousand appreciated the harmonising of all these voices, especially the singing of 'Coedmor', and joined in clapping to 'When the Saints Go Marching In'.

The soloist at the festival was the outstanding young tenor Joshua Mills, the winner of the Dunraven Windows Welsh young singer of 2012.

Retired Persons' Club,

THIS sociable club, which meets in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, regularly has speakers to give talks on a variety of subjects.

Local school pupils regularly come along and provide entertainment in many different forms.

The members enjoy games of bingo, raffles etc at most meetings. The club meets on Wednesday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm, and visitors are made most welcome.

Bridgend Carers' Centre

THE above charity, located in 87 Park Street, Bridgend (01656 658479), provides information and is a social centre for unpaid individuals who look after their parents, disabled children, friends or neighbours.

These individuals, very often because of their circumstances, become isolated and lonely.

On Monday April 16/23/30 there will be a 'book cwtch' between 1pm and 2pm, where help is given by providing a book or poem with the opportunity to practice reading out aloud.

This has proven to be helpful to the patient the carer looks after by helping the patient relax and relieves symptoms of depression.

On Tuesday April 10/17/24 between 10.30am and 12.30pm, there will be a meeting of the health and well being group.

The carers will be able to seek advice from outside agencies, or take part in making crafts while enjoying a cup of coffee and a slice of cake between 1pm and 3pm. On Thursday, April 5 there will be an outreach group in Trinity Church Hall, Porthcawl between 9.30am and 12.30pm.

On the same day, a new exercise class is starting at the centre entitled 'Body Blitz', 1.30pm-2.30pm, instructing carers in the use of hand weights and dyno bands.

The centre will be closed on Easter Monday.

Maesteg 'Gleemen'

The choir recently held its annual concert in Maesteg Town Hall.

The conductor was musical director Alun Hodges, accompanied on the piano by his wife Suzanne.

The concert started with the choir singing Arwel Hughes' rendition of 'Tydi A Roddaist' followed by the late John Denver's hit song 'Perhaps Love'.

This was followed by Sebastian Waters, a member of 'Only Boys Aloud'. Sebastian was also the winner of the Bridgend County Young Singer of the Year Competition for 2012. Sebastian sang 'Anthem' from the hit show Chess.

He was followed by the outstanding tenor Joshua Mills, the 2012 'Dunraven Windows' Welsh Young Singer of the Year, who sang Tosti's 'A'Vucchella' and a piece from Massanet's 'Manon'.

The Gleemen then changed the tone of the concert with two Elvis hits: 'Can't Help Falling In Love' and the 'The Wonder Of You'.

Joshua then sang Tosti's 'Penso' and the hit from *Les Miserables:* 'Bring Him Home'.

Again there was a change in tempo to the concert with the choir's bass singer, Michael Reglin, singing in German part of the song 'Somewhere My Love' and the choir singing the chorus in English.

After the interval, the choir sang the Welsh hymn 'Llanfair' to the tune composed by Robert Williams. Then came Ivor Novello's 'My Dearest Dear'.

Sebastian Waters sang two solo pieces; Brian May's 'No One But You' and the verses of Trevor Evan's 'Cartref', with the choir singing the chorus.

Tenor Joshua sang four more songs, and the choir finished the concert with Robert Arwyn's lovely 'Bendegedig' and soloist Rhiannon Owen then joined the choir in the choral piece 'Easter Hymn'.

The members of the audience then stood to the Welsh National Anthem. As they left the hall they said that this was the best annual concert that the 'Gleemen' had performed in because it had been so well organised and rehearsed.

Independence for elderly or disabled

SPECIALIST care is being provided inside a comfortable home style environment at Bryn y Cae, Brackla.

Accommodation is being provided for up to six people who have recently undergone an operation or require serious medical treatment. The accommodation will have therapy and treatment rooms with specially adapted kitchens and bathroom facilities.

It is provided to help individuals recover from and prepare to live independently in their homes.

There is also a new integrated community equipment service at the Trem-y-Mor centre in Betws.

This will provide a large range of equipment for assessment and demonstration training to help in providing aid for daily living – allowing adults and children to live independently in their own homes.

The centre also houses the Telecare service which responds to calls for assistance and provides reassurance to people who live in their own homes.

The 24-hour support is activated via a 'lifeline' by the individual or a sensor which has picked up the fact a person has had a fall in their home.

The centre also provides a number of training suites including a demonstration area for listening aids, visual reminders, phones and telecare sensors, and a vision resource facility featuring visual impairment equipment such as talking clocks, mobile phones, writing aids and PCs with a variety of speech and magnification software.

A sensory garden provides a specially laid out outdoor area for visually impaired clients beginning their mobility training with a long cane.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

IT is sad to report the death of Margaret Howells (nee Morgan) aged 89 years, and late of Sealands Farm, where she lived with husband Elwyn.

She was born at Penwchadre Farm, St Brides Major, the twin sister of William Morgan to one of the oldest families in the village, faithful members of Brynsion Chapel, Penylan Road, where Margaret played the organ in her younger days.

She had one daughter, Catherine, and lived in latter years with her in Talgarth. Condolences to the family.

Library opens

THE opening of the St Brides Major Community Link library took place on Saturday, March 17 at the church hall, St Brides Major, during the monthly local produce market and craft fayre.

It was opened by the Venerable Philip Morris, Archdeacon of Margam and priest in charge of the parish of St Brides Major.

Also attending were civic dignitaries with local MP Alun Cairns, AMs Jane Hutt and Andrew R T Davies, Gordon Kemp, Leader of the Vale Council, Audrey Preston, representing the Mayor, and local community councillors Adrian and Meryl James.

The library is to be run by a team of volunteers who signed up 44 individuals and families on the day of opening and the following Saturday, more were signed up for membership.

Books are being supplied by the Vale Library Service and it will be open five hours a week – Wednesday 3.15pm-4.14pm and 5pm-7pm, and again on Saturday from 10am to 12pm, when a cup of tea/coffee will be available during the parish tea and chat morning.

Congratulations

TWO of our local beaches have received awards for cleanliness from Keep Wales Tidy.

Southerndown won the seaside award for attaining the European Union standard of bathing water and beach management, while Ogmore-by-Sea achieved the green coast award for its environmental standards and top quality bathing water.

Dog fouling

THIS is still causing a problem in the area. From May until September, dogs will not be allowed on some beaches in the Vale, including Southerdown.

Dog mess can be cleaned up easily using a plastic bag. Further information can be obtained on 02920 673000.

Playgroup moves to new home

ABOVE: Vikki and Harri Gunn.

MUMS and youngsters turned out in force for the grand Easter relaunch of the Pencoed Baby and Toddler Group at the town's ROAB Club.

The relaunch, just in time for Easter, gave parents and children the chance to play together while enjoying a hot cross bun and a cup of tea.

The not-for-profit Playgroup is open from 10am to 12pm every Monday at the Pencoed ROAB Club off Penybont Road. Entry is just £2 and includes tea or coffee and biscuits.

Playgroup organiser Sarah Merlini said: "I was delighted to see so many visitors to our relaunch event."

Local mum Vikki Gunn said: "I love this group. Sarah is really welcoming and I've made some great new friends since I started coming."

Pencoed Baby and Toddler Group takes place every Monday from 10am to 12pm at Pencoed ROAB Club, off Penybont Road, Pencoed. Entry costs £2 and includes tea/coffee and biscuits. For more information, call Sarah Merlini on 07793 540726.

EASTER ACTIVITIES

STORIES and themed crafts are among Easter activities for children in the borough's libraries.

'Eggciting' stories and crafts at Pyle Life Centre, April 5 at 2.30pm;

Easter parades at Pencoed Library, April 5, 2pm and Betws Library, Friday, April 6 at 2pm;

Easter story time and crafts at Porthcawl Library, April 7 at 3.45pm;

April 12: Can you find where the elusive Easter Bunny is hiding out? At Bridgend Library, 2.15pm; Dragons, fairy stories and crafts at Pyle Life Centre, 2.30pm; Charlie and Lola party at Pencoed Library, 2pm.

Admission free of charge for all activities and available for under-11s.

'Budget unfair to all except the rich,' *says MP*

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has criticised the Chancellor for producing a Budget that is "unfair to everyone except millionaires."

She pointed out that the Budget included a cut in the top rate of tax to 45p in the pound meaning 14,000 people earning more than £1million pounds will enjoy a tax cut of over £40,000 each year, while pensioners will see their personal allowance frozen, costing them on average £83 a year. Anyone turning 65 next year will lose up to £322 a year, she said.

"Amongst the other measures announced, anyone popping into a bakery for a pasty at lunchtime will find their hot snack more expensive as they are now subject to VAT at 20 per cent. There was no attempt to address rising fuel prices as the planned rises in fuel duty remain in place.

"These changes will mean the Government will receive twice as much money from pensioners than from the richest in society. Millionaires are the only winners from this Budget.

"One million young people are unemployed and the economy has stalled. This Budget utterly fails to address these issues.

"This unfair Budget comes on top of the cuts the Coalition Government has already made to working tax credits, the increase in VAT to 20 per cent that costs the average family £450 a year and the freeze on public sector pay.

"In contrast, the five - point plan put forward by Ed Balls would put a tax on bank bonuses to fund 100,000 jobs for young people, reduce VAT temporarily to give the economy the boost it needs and give a tax break for every small business that takes on employees," she added.

CEFN GLAS INFANTS' EASTER BONNET PARADE FULL OF COLOUR AND SMILES!

CEFN GLAS INFANTS' SCHOOL in Bridgend took advantage of the beautiful weather last week to hold an Easter bonnet parade.

As you can see from Randell John's cheerful images, the youngsters were keen to show off their colourful head-gear.

There were lots of smiles and waves from the children who thoroughly enjoyed their moment in the limelight.

PHOTOGRAPHS by RANDELL JOHN Tel: 01656 662324

TRACTOR BOYS OF ABERTHIN TRAVEL RURAL VALE IN BOOST FOR TY HAFAN

THE 'Tractor Boys of Aberthin', in association with the Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes, held what has become an annual event – a vintage tractor run in aid of Ty Hafan.

Participants travelled from far and wide, including Bridgend, to support this very worthy cause, which was much appreciated by the run organisers.

The run was staged on Sunday, March 25 with over 36 vintage tractor entries leaving Arthur John's car park in Cowbridge at 10.30am.

The convoy headed towards Aberthin at a brisk 15mph before moving on to take in other villages in the Vale to include Welsh St Donats, Clawdd Coch, Pendoylan, Duffryn, Moulton, Llancarfan and Llantrithyd, finally arriving at the Blacksmiths Arms for a long anticipated lunch break.

The convoy then made tracks back to Cowbridge via Sigingstone, Llanmihangel and Llanblethian.

A total distance of 30 miles was covered, raising £605.57 for Ty Hafan.

Many thanks to Mr D John and family for the use of their car park and to Mike, Jackie, and Russell of the Blacksmiths Arms for their hospitality and to all those who contributed to the sum raised.

MH

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

Author Tom Palmer and shoot-out quiz proves popular draw

Tom Palmer and the children from Maes yr Haul Primary School.

ABOVE: The book signing with Tom Palmer.

ABOVE: The winners of the penalty shoot-out quiz Maes yr Haul with their trophy.

THIS year's inter-school penalty shoot-out quiz was held recently at Maes yr Haul Primary School and was attended by *Football Academy* author Tom Palmer and local dignitaries.

The popular event was the culmination of a six-week 'Reading is Fun!' programme organised by Bridgend Libraries to encourage a love of reading among borough school children.

Children who described themselves as non-readers were selected to take part in the programme that looked at all aspects of reading. Websites, poetry, magazines, as well as carefully chosen books were introduced over the weeks with children enjoying literary quizzes encouraging an exploration of different reading materials.

One of the activities was a penalty shoot-out book quiz using sport, in particular football and rugby, as a focus for reading and research. Children from Brackla, Brynmenyn, Maes yr Haul and Oldcastle primary schools competed in the inter-school penalty shoot-out book quiz final.

Competitors brought supporters and answered three rounds of questions based on the books that they had read, a general knowledge round and a special Mastermind round.

Points for the penalty shoot-out were earned for every question that was correctly answered. After three rounds, the points were added and the penalty shoot-out began.

A goal was set up with Tom Palmer acting as goalie and a referee was in attendance to ensure fair play at all times. Home team Maes yr Haul were the winners with eight goals after successfully answering 10 questions out of 15.

After refreshments, the trophy was awarded to the Maes yr Haul Team. Tom Palmer then signed copies of his books for all competitors and the event finished with a question and answer session.

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'WONDERFUL AMENITY A CREDIT TO TRUST'

MP praises volunteers' work at the Coed y Bwl reserve

COED-Y-BWL Reserve's celebrated wild daffodils were in full bloom for the highly successful open day, when the new information board and cairn were unveiled by Murray McLaggan of Merthyr Mawr Estate with Vale MP, Alun Cairns.

Mr McLaggan recalled the early history of the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales' conservation work at the reserve, when over 30 years ago, Dutch Elm disease ravaged the wood and threatened the daffodils with the sudden exposure to invasive bramble.

He also thanked the long-term group of volunteers for their maintenance work to protect the woodland and its wealth of wildlife.

Bridgend Group chairman Tony Wilson paid tribute to volunteers for their dedication over four decades.

Mr Cairns said: "I'm so impressed by the volunteers' conservation work over such a long period.

"The reserve and its lovely setting in the Alun Valley is a credit to the Trust and Merthyr Mawr Estate – and a wonderful local amenity for the area."

Warden Richard Marks thanked Merthyr Mawr Estate and Mr McLaggan for their continued renewal of the leasehold since 1972 and called on younger volunteers to step in and help protect the wood for future generations of country lovers.

Scores of visitors walked around the six-acre reserve to see the daffodils and listen to spring birdsong.

HALF TIDY PERFORM FOR EISTEDDFOD

ON Friday, April 20 from 8.30pm, the 'Half Tidy' group will present an evening of light musical entertainmentat at the Sportsman's Rest, Peterston-super-Ely.

A collection will be carried out for the National Eisteddfod at Llandow later this year.

Making a will can benefit Ty Hafan

TY HAFAN, the family hospice for young lives, will be running its 'Write a Will' campaign from April 16–27.

The charity has teamed up with 26 solicitors across south Wales to offer people the chance to have a simple will written for just £50, giving supporters the opportunity to help make a real difference to life-limited children, young people and their families throughout the region, by leaving a gift in their will.

Mrs Dorothy Davies and her husband Mr Ronald Davies MBE both remembered Ty Hafan in their wills. Dot and Ron, as they were known by family and friends, made gifts to their loved ones in the first instance and then remembered their chosen charity.

A Ty Hafan spokeswoman said: "Dot and Ron loved to travel abroad on holiday. They lived life to the full and were known by many in their community. Ron was born registered blind and Dot was born with dwarfism.

"Dot and Ron chose to include a gift to Ty Hafan in their wills, remembering the children and young people with life-limited conditions and their families. They continued their lifetime support of charities by perhaps providing the most generous gift of all, a gift in their wills, which will allow their generosity to live on and will form part of their legacy."

Clare Waters, herself a non-practising solicitor, now working with Ty Hafan explains the benefits of remembering a favourite charity in your will:

"We would always expect family and friends to come first when making gifts in a will, but would ask that a thought is spared for the children, young people and their families to whom Ty Hafan can be a lifeline. Any gift would be most welcome and even a gift of one per cent of the residue of an estate can make a real difference."

To find a participating solicitor near you, telephone Clare on 02920 672056 or email legacy@tyhafan.org

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MAESTEG CADET'S VISIT TO PALACE

ABOVE:
Maesteg s Thomas Evans (16) was one of the volunteers invited to Buckingham Palace.

A GROUP of teenagers paid a special visit to Buckingham Palace recently, in recognition of their exceptional work with St John Wales.

A total of 12 volunteers from across Wales, attended a 'Young Achievers' reception hosted by Princess Anne for achieving their Grand Prior award – the highest award a Cadet can obtain.

It marks at least three years of sustained effort studying 24 different subjects including; working in the community, outdoor pursuits and first aid.

Thomas Evans, a 16-year-old Maesteg volunteer, thoroughly enjoyed the reception. He said: "It was a different and exciting opportunity which I wouldn't have had if I wasn't a volunteer with St John."

More than 80 young people were invited to Buckingham Palace to represent St John from across the UK.

St John Wales has a growing youth membership – 60 per cent of its 4,900 volunteers are under the age of 18.

The charity is committed to offering young people a wide range of opportunities and organises a series of international and national events every year.

For more information, contact 02920 449600 or email: recruitment@stjohnwales.org.uk.

Rags to riches on Caerau catwalk!

YOUNG and old were putting their best foot forward in the Caerau Rags to Riches fashion show on March 30.

The event was organised to show how second hand clothing that has been altered and accessorised can make fashionable outfits affordable.

The project also looks to reduce the amount of clothes that is thrown away and ends up in landfill. As well as being able to view the various outfits worn by the models on the catwalk, there was also be a chance to buy clothes, see performers and have refreshments.

All money raised will go to towards supporting local charities in Caerau and the British Red Cross.

The fashion show took place at Caerau Development Trust (formerly Blaenllynfi Infant School).

Marathon journey for vintage car owners

Report and photographs by **KEITH E MORGAN**

OVER the Easter holiday, Nora and John Williams of Nottage, Porthcawl, will drive their 1931 Austin 7 from John O'Groats to Landsend.

It will be a mammoth journey in itself, made much longer by the fact that Nora and John will first have to drive from Nottage to John O'Groats to join 45 other Austin 7 enthusiasts in order to start.

Nora and John then have to return home to Nottage; an overall round trip mile of more than 2,000 miles!

Quite a formidable task for an Austin 7 car, driver and passenger.

The event is being organised by the 750 Motor Club and the Association of Austin Seven Clubs to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the introduction of the Austin 7.

It is envisaged that there will be 46 Austin 7s taking part in the run.

Nora and John will be accompanied by fellow South Wales Austin 7 Club members Jan and Harry Hales in their 1937 Austin Ruby. Jan and Harry used to be Porthcawl residents, before moving to Carmarthen a few years ago.

The little Austins, with their 750cc engines, have a top speed of about 55mph, so the route will avoid motorways for most of the journey.

The two couples are using the trip to raise money for Barnardos.

If any readers would like to help with sponsorship, this can be done online by contacting John via: jonniejumble@googlemail.com.

Nora and John taking the Austin 7 out for a trial run.

John servicing the Austin 7 ready for the big run.

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PUPILS GET FUNDRAISING HABIT!

Pupils show off their Sport Relief gear at the fundraising walk.

'Human caterpillar' at school raises essential cash for Sport Relief

CHILDREN in Gladstone Primary School, from reception to year-6, helped to raise money for Sport Relief by walking a mile recently.

The human caterpillar left the school in high spirits on a bright, sunny morning with year-6 leading the way. The rest of the school followed in age order and completed a mile walk around the block. The older children then clapped and cheered as the youngsters completed the circuit.

So far, the children at Gladstone have raised more than £300 for Sport Relief and the school would like to thank the parents for their generosity and support in this very worthwhile cause.

"We are very proud of the children's attitude towards this fundraising exercise. They supported and encouraged each other along the way, motivating not only their peers, but also their teachers!" said Miss Jones, PE co-ordinator.

Tally–ho at Talygarn for Scott and Alex!

From left to right: Scott Quinnell, Michigan, Chris Rogers and Grand Slammer Alex Cuthbert.

SKY SPORTS had good reason to film a Welsh rugby hero at a local equstrian centre earlier this week.

Welsh winger Alex Cuthbert used to be a show-jumping champion and former Wales' international Scott Quinnell decided to use Talygarn Equestrian Centre as the backdrop for the channel's 'player profile'.

Talygarn centre owner, Chris Rogers, said: "Alex used to showjump, and Scott used to ride too. Scott took the opportunity to ride one of the horses Michigan.

"The profile will be shown on Sky Sports on Thursday, April 5 between 9.30pm and 10pm, and also before Saturday's match between the Blues and Leinster."

Charity tractor run

THE Vale Tractor Run will take place on Sunday, April 22 at 10am.

The run is being organised by the Tractor Boys of Aberthin, on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society, and will support the Ed Evans Foundation.

The run will start and finish at Frank Sutton's Depot, St Mary Hill, and the trip around the Vale will cover about 30 miles. Registration of tractors will take place at 10am for a 10.30am start.

There will be a half-way refreshment break at the Llandow Race Track Café.

Entry and sponsorship forms can be obtained from Basil George (telephone 01656 654440) or email: Basil@basilgeorge.com.

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Youngsters learn about sporting opportunities

Students receive their prizes from Nike representative Carl Feiven.

BRIDGEND County Borough Council's sports and physical activity department provided students with guidance on career pathways into sport and recreation, at a recent Learning Pathways 14-19 event.

Sports staff were on hand to answer questions about the minimum qualifications required to become lifeguards and fitness instructors, and provide information regarding work experience placements.

Learning Pathways 14-19 is a distinct approach being taken in Wales to transform the way in which young people are educated. It addresses the need for a flexible and balanced approach to the education of 14-19-year-olds, focusing on the development of skills which help them to achieve their potential.

As part of the event, the department held a 500-metre rowing challenge. Taylor Robinson was fastest on the rowing machine in the girls competition, while Cole Lewis and Chris Cooper were joint winners in the boys category.

Each winner received a £25 gift voucher to spend at the Nike Clearance Store at Bridgend Designer Outlet.

Man fined

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Whitehead's counsel, Alex Greenwood said: "He is a man of impeccable character. He decided to set up on his own in business but the recession started to bite and it failed."

He had even sought advice from the Welsh Assembly Government, as he attempted to deal with an escalating situation.

At the time, there were family problems with one member terminally ill, and in 2010, the business ceased.

"Sadly, he let matters get on top of him," said Mr Greenwood.

The court heard that he now works as an aircraft fitter.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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The Lektronix team.

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The recent open day at Bridgend showcased the newly installed test rigs that will allow even more parts to be fully functional tested.

Phillip Thomas, general manager, stated: "The open day was a great opportunity for our customers to come and look round our facility and meet our engineers, employees and management team."

For more information about how Lektronix, a Rockwell Automation Business, can help your business, call 01656 720205 or visit: www.lektonix.co.uk.

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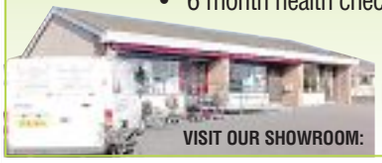

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GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Vale Women's Business Network

What place does Social Media play in your marketing strategy?

Wed 18th April 2012
At **Bar 44, Cowbridge**
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Guests and non-members are most welcome!
(Guest membership for this event is £10)
Please email members@vwbn.org.uk to book
www.vwbn.org.uk

WHAT place does social media play in your marketing strategy?

We welcome back Russell Davies of Lobster Digital Marketing.

This month, Russell will focus on how to keep up with social media trends in such a fast-changing environment, and help you identify what might be effective for you to get your message out there.

There will also be an opportunity to ask questions and share your experiences in our usual relaxed and friendly environment.

So, do join us at Bar 44 in Cowbridge on Wednesday, April 18 from 6.30pm - 9pm. £10 non-members, £5 members.

Please contact Rebecca to book at mailto:members@vwbn.org.uk.

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JOHN HUGHES: Easter specials

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It has achieved many meat products gold awards, including one for traditional pork sausage, pork garlic and leek sausage and beef burgers, steak pies and a silver award for steak and kidney pies.

All these products are among a wide variety made on a regular basis at the locally-run butchers.

The business is now taking orders for Easter. Telephone 01443 225225.

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THE ART OF SELF INQUIRY

MOST of our stress comes from our relationships, and it can cause physical illness, says Janet Brown.

Janet has recently returned from Washington DC where she spent three years with her business partner, Ron Powers, perfecting a new, innovative technique to relieve stress called 'The Art of Self Inquiry'.

Janet has returned to her home town of Barry, where she works as a personal coach and teaches the Art of Self Inquiry.

She said: "It's exciting to know we truly don't need to wait for others to change in order to relieve our personal stress.

"We can dissolve our own stress and change in ways that will empower us to improve our relationships."

Janet has spent much of her career travelling abroad, teaching personal empowerment and conflict resolution in two global organisations.

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AQUA SPAS has now been established for eight years and has achieved great success in the UK hot tub industry.

"We pride ourselves on giving a highly professional service and support and have installed more than 400 hot tubs.

"It's not just about selling products, it's about building good customer relationships and after sales support."

The business started as a service business in 2004, after Julian had left aeronautical engineering.

It quickly grew, with a high demand to support many hot tubs and pools in south and west Wales – as many clients were left unsupported by other brands.

Julian said: "We became authorised dealers in 2005 for USA and Canadian manufactured hot tubs and installed many projects throughout the Welsh region.

"After an expansion plan in 2010, to move to bigger premises at Atlantic Gate, Barry, we have recently expanded our showroom with a refit to accommodate more wet leisure products.

"We are now named Aqua Spas & Pools, as we found continued growth with swimming pool building projects and refurbishment.

"We are now stocking pool equipment and a full range of pool chemicals.

"Since we have been operating as a family business, we have grown by more than 50 per cent and last year we expanded our show display again to more than 10 hot tubs, including an above ground pool, and a full size swim spa.

"We have a huge range of accessories and chemicals at the most competitive prices, providing everything you may need to fully enjoy your home spa and pool.

"We can offer various maintenance packages including winterisation, servicing, repairs, planning advice, installation and commissioning."

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Get your car smart for spring

IN winter, we often don't notice minor bodywork damage on our cars because they are swathed in the elements and shrouded in the shorter, darker days.

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Local ChipsAway specialist Paul Jarvis explained: "After your car has been through the mill in the winter, a professional eye cast over your paintwork can pick up all the damage and stop it getting worse before it adds up a to a major expense.

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Boxes and Busts is *the* 'place to be'!

Lowena Diment (12) enjoys a creative session at Boxes and Busts.

A HUGELY successful three days of jewellery making demonstrations were held at The Bead Room at Boxes and Busts last weekend.

Lots of merriment, learning and fun were had by all.

Many new people are now converts to a new craft and lots more will be after attending one of the many all-inclusive workshops offered after the launch of the new teaching schedule.

Many places are already taken but the workshops available include; chain maille, precious metal clay, working with wire, polymer clay, kumihimo, beginners jewellery making and tiara making.

With further new workshops planned after an expansion due later this year, The Bead Room is fast becoming the 'place to be!'

The Bead Room now stocks a vast range of beads and findings, including a large range of high grade fresh water pearls, a superb selection of semi-precious gemstones and a range of high end clasps from the Elegant Elements range by The Beadsmith.

For further information about The Bead Room, the workshops or for help and advice, please contact Boxes and Busts, Unit 19, Ty Verlon Ind Est, Cardiff Road, Barry, CF63 2BE. Tel: 01446 701230; or visit: www.boxesandbusts.co.uk.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Meat and ten veg the way to go!

VEGBOX company, Riverford Organic, is encouraging the nation to rethink how they cook with meat.

Meat and ten veg is the phrase they use to sum up their philosophy – let the meat we eat be better quality, eaten less often in smaller quantities and with confidence that the animal has been treated respectfully.

Above all, make the veg the star of the show. Using meat this way helps it go further, so it's a good strategy for those on a tighter budget.

Meat from animals that has been slowly reared on a natural diet often has much more flavour than its intensively-produced counterpart.

It makes sense that you won't need to use as much to make a tasty meal. Making sure the whole of the animal is used is another part of the meat and ten veg philosophy.

With this in mind, Riverford Organic makes a point of selling less mainstream cuts such as brisket, pork belly and oxtail through their meatboxes.

Chris and Alison Moruzzi, who deliver meatboxes to families in mid and west Glamorgan, say it's really easy to get stuck in a routine of using the same quantity of meat in the same dishes.

However, by replacing a third of the mince in spaghetti bolognese with a variety of tasty colourful veg, you still get a flavourful, satisfying meal.

Their local office number is 01639 772846.

Future's new Vertex tile effect roof

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Nick and Gail Rees of GNR Designs - www.gnrdesigns.co.uk
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Highway problems concern AM

SHADOW transport minister Byron Davies has been looking at highway problems in Pen-y-Fai.

Mr Davies was invited to the village by local resident and campaigner Altaf Hussain, who has conducted a survey of residents.

Mr Hussain, who is a retired orthopaedic surgeon, said that residents were concerned with a number of road safety issues.

He said: "Pen-y-Fai is being used as a rat run by people living in Bryntirion and Broadlands. They come along the lane and then go through the village en route to the motorway.

"This means that at peak times we have heavy flows of traffic through Pen-y-Fai. People are worried about the safety of children going to and from the village school. They have to walk along the main road, which has a very narrow pavement.

"There was an incident recently, when a child had his lunch box hit out of his hand by a car, which was travelling very close to the pavement. Naturally, parents are fearful that a tragedy could occur and are calling for action."

Mr Hussain said that traffic calming measures were needed to reduce the risk.

He said: "We need to create a one-way stretch along the main road so that only one lane of traffic at a time can travel.

"They could put in the road narrowings which will also have the effect of slowing traffic down. We have to deter people from using the village as a shortcut."

Mr Hussain has also identified sites where pedestrian safety barriers could be installed and is calling for repairs to be carried out to pavement and road surfaces.

Byron Davies, who is the Welsh Conservative Regional AM for South Wales West, said that having visited the village, he was backing the campaign.

He said: "Villagers responded in large numbers to the survey and have said what they think should be done in no uncertain terms.

"As shadow transport minister, I will be writing to Bridgend Highway Authority to ask them to investigate the problems in Pen-y-fai and to come up with solutions before an accident takes place."

Altaf Hussain and Byron Davies AM stand on one of the narrow pavements in Pen-y-Fai, which children have to use to reach the village school.

Young musicians in jazz festival

MEMBERS of the Porthcawl Rock Club gave an insight into what to expect on the final afternoon of the Porthcawl International Jazz Festival later this month.

They entertained passers-by in Porthcawl town centre to whet the appetites, and then performed on the beach.

The Festival runs from April 13-15, with the Pasadena Roof Orchestra the Friday night highlight, the John Miller Orchestra taking to the Grand Pavilion stage on the Saturday and the Capital City Jazz Orchestra bringing the curtain down on proceedings on the Sunday night after the Porthcawl Rock Club have entertained patrons.

There will also be bands performing on Newton Green, at Trecco Bay and at both the Porthcawl and Brentwood Hotels during the festival.

MP WELCOMES TAX CREDIT CHANGES

MADELEINE MOON MP has welcomed news that some carers will be exempt from imminent changes to working tax credit, but says that the Government must do more to understand the pressure on couples with a disabled partner and working families.

It was previously announced that 200 couples with children in Bridgend could lose around £4,000 a year from April 6.

This followed a change to working tax credit which stated that couples with children earning less than around £17,700 would need to increase the number of hours they work from a minimum of 16 to 24 hours a week to remain eligible.

However, in the March Budget it was announced that couples where one partner is eligible for carers allowance and one partner works 16 hours will remain entitled to working tax credit.

Madeleine said: "I am pleased that the Government has recognised what a bombshell this policy was for families in Bridgend and the rest of the UK, particularly for those who are constrained by their caring duties.

"I raised the issue in a Welsh Affairs debate last month and I am pleased the Government is finally starting to listen.

"However, this does not address another key problem which we often see in our area. If one partner cares for the other they will have to be able to prove they are needed for caring duties 35 hours a week, and then work 16 hours on top of this.

"Any less than 35 hours and they will not be exempt, and will have to find extra hours in order to keep their tax credits."

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ARBOREAL FEATURES THE VERY BEST IN LOCAL FASHION WITH CATWALK SHOW

A catwalk show was held at Arboreal in Eastgate, Cowbridge, last Tuesday (March 27) which drew an appreciative audience.

As you can see from Andy Wicks' images it highlighted the very best in local fashion and there are hopes the event will be repeated in the future.

Among the contributors were Fich & Ramous, Vadatelier, E91, E91 Classic, Pebble and L'Armoire.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDY WICKS

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COWBRIDGE

So much to see...

THE FRIENDLY TOWN WITH THE COMPLETE SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

THE wonderful weather earlier this week heralds what will be a momentous few months in the history of Cowbridge.

Next month, the second Cowbridge Book Festival will be held, three months later the National Eisteddfod and thousands of visitors arrive – and by October the town will have a new Waitrose store giving the town a huge commercial boost.

The chairman of the Chamber of Trade, Alun John, said: "The fact that we've started to get some lovely weather makes for a more vibrant atmosphere and people in Cowbridge are looking forward to enjoying the spring and summer months – you can feel the buzz.

"Soon the book festival is going to be held and later in the summer we hope to be welcoming many visitors from the National Eisteddfod.

"Both events are an opportunity for the town's businesses and shops to showcase what they have to offer the public."

The book festival is an illustration of how one event can spark 'spin-offs' over the same period of time – this year Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) is presenting 'The Squire of Gadshill' in the Market Theatre on Saturday, May 12, the Chamber of Trade is planning a 'guess the book' trail around the town and Dick Tonkin of the Historical Society will give guided walks round local sites of note.

Stella Cheeseman, the book festival organiser, said: "Spring in the ancient borough of Cowbridge is an excellent time to stage our festival.

(Continued on facing page)

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All entrants must be 18 or over to be eligible. **Closing date Friday, 20th April. The winning entry will be announced on the What's On pages of the GEM, Thursday, 26th April** *Normal competition rules apply. No correspondence will be entered into. Judges decision is final.*

So much to see...

(continued from Page 20)

ATTRACTIONS!

"The town has many individual attractions, from a wide range of distinctive shops to a variety of good pubs and restaurants where it is pleasant to sit and watch the world go by.

"Between author events, we wanted a time in the year when it was pleasant to stroll around the many historic buildings and sites in the town.

"Visitors soon become aware of the close knit and bustling community.

"We can have great pride in the well maintained public spaces.

"Volunteers have spent years restoring the Physic Garden and the mediaeval town walls, and members of the Cowbridge Charter Trust are currently working to improve the Old Hall Gardens.

"The festival is very fortunate that the efforts of this dedicated band of volunteers will come to fruition in time for the Old Hall to look pristine for this year's festival.

"Cowbridge, with its well established record for supporting festivals and making people feel welcome, is on track to make the second Cowbridge Book Festival a great success."

For local shops, festival and the Eisteddfod, visitors will provide a welcome boost.

Local businessman Mark Jones is so committed to Cowbridge that he is involved in not one boutique, but two – E91 and E91 Classic.

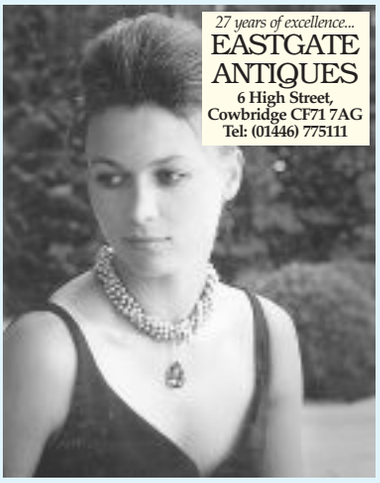
However, as Mark explained they both have a distinct character.

"At E91 Classic we have high end, exclusive items.

"People travel from as far away as west Wales, Cheltenham and the north of England to visit us."

Among the top names he stocks are Armani and Nicole Farhi. Mark also stocks Philip Treacy Hats, a label favoured by Kate Middleton, the Duchess of Cornwall and Lady Gaga – renowned as the Rolls Royce of millinery.

(continued on Page 22)



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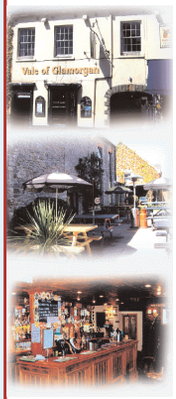

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COWBRIDGE

COWBRIDGE

So much to see...

DEDICATED FOLLOWERS OF FASHION!

(continued from Page 21)

"E91 is effectively a fashion driven department store on the high street and we have names like Issa – we stocked Kate Middleton's engagement dress – Missoni, a luxury Italian knitwear brand, and Milly, a New York name.

"In both E91 and E91 Classic we let the clothes do the talking."

Mark's enthusiasm is infectious and it is easy to understand why local boutiques have such a loyal following.

E91 was founded two and a half years ago and its success inspired E91 Classic, which will celebrate its first anniversary this August. The shops are attractive – light, spacious and uncluttered.

"Our aim is to give clients a great shopping experience – they become friends," added Mark.

Cowbridge is famed for its exceptional shopping experience – fashion, jewellery and restaurants.

But to prove that almost every area of retail is covered, it can boast an excellent camping equipment supplier too.

In Westgate, OBI Camping stocks everything that a family needs to enjoy short breaks or weeks away in the great outdoors.

People have become more cost conscious in terms of foreign travel, and the idea of reducing the carbon footprint and holidaying in Britain has become more appealing.

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(continued on facing page)

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So much to see...

THE GREAT OUTDOORS!

(continued from Page 22)

OBI Camping has a selection of tents and caravans – and all the accessories too – such as chairs and tables, lamps, durable dinner sets and stoves.

Owner Sarah John said: "We find that Cowbridge people really support Cowbridge businesses – they make a point of giving us first chance to supply what they need.

"Just being in the town has helped us, because some customers come from hundreds of miles away – combining a shopping trip with a mini-break in Cowbridge or in the countryside.

"They sometimes buy a tent, put it up on a local campsite, and call us if they need any advice!"

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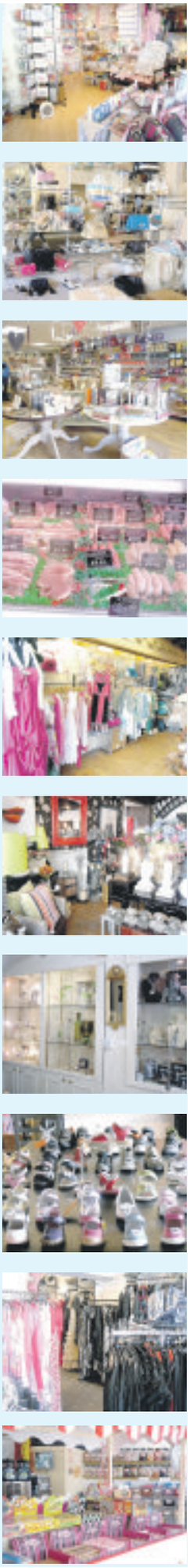

Out and About with The GEM

THESE GAMES JUST LEAVE YOU HUNGER-ING FOR MORE!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

IF the domination of the *Twilight* franchise wasn't enough to make the blood of those over the age of 18 run cold, be warned – there is another 'teen-friendly' series of novels heading to the big screen – in the shape of *The Hunger Games*, written by Suzanne Collins.

It tells the story of Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), who takes the place of her sister when she is picked to take part in the titular games, a fight to the death among representatives (or 'tributes') from the 12 districts that make up Panem (that once was north America).

Travelling with Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) who has also been chosen, will Katniss be able to survive the games, as she learns there is more to it than simply trying to stay alive?

A teen franchise, populated by attractive young actors, gobbled up by the mass public – there is more than a fleeting comparison here to the dreaded world of *Twilight*. However, if you think I'm going to continue by talking about rubbish acting and melodramatic storylines, then you'd be wrong; *The Hunger Games* is a different kettle of fish altogether.

A teen film about teenagers and children killing each other to survive isn't a fresh, or shocking, idea for anyone who has seen the incredible Japanese film *Battle Royale* which deals with similar circumstances, but given this is a mainstream affair, it is an often unflinching film that tests its 12A certificate.

This is both a positive and a negative – good, because it is a refreshing change of cinematic pace – a negative because invariably the brutality of the bloodshed and the magnitude of the characters' actions are underplayed too much.

Director Gary Ross, whose career has been built on pleasing family fare like *Seabiscuit*, similarly changes pace and does a good job, the decaying facades of the districts giving way to the neolithic austerity of The Capitol, and Ross' direction is suitably big in scope to match this, while the actual games aspect is given several nice touches by the director.

The performances are of a similar standard, with the cast delivering the goods, no matter the size of the role.

Jennifer Lawrence's turn as country girl in *Winter's Bone* showed she is more than just slumming as the earthy Katniss, and while she handles the feral aspect of the character well, she also grasps the aspect of the character being thrust into this world where death is all too real.

Josh Hutcherson delivers a solid turn alongside her as the naive Peeta who finds himself in the middle of the bloodshed, while the likes of Woody Harrelson, Wes Bentley, Elizabeth Banks, Stanley Tucci and Liam Hemsworth are all good in parts that range from support to extended cameo.

The only real issue comes through the screenplay, written by Ross, Collins and Billy Ray, which downplays the impact of the games.

The spectre of death may be hanging over the characters, but we never really see the inner workings of the fear of the characters in response to this, while the themes of rebellion and the portent of things to come is a touch too laboured and predictable.

Similarly, while the book allows the imagination to take over where the violence is concerned, transposing it to screen means that, while dramatic, we never really see the implications of it, while the film spends so long on the games themselves (the build-up, etc) that the characters feel a little too sketchily drawn.

However, as the first step in what is bound to be a series, *The Hunger Games* sets its stall out well, laying the foundations for the travails ahead and creating a universe that further trips to would be more than welcome.

VERDICT: A pleasing, if somewhat slight given the subject matter, adaptation, *The Hunger Games* is a decent first step in the latest world-conquering franchise.

While a touch tame, it nonetheless takes bolder steps than your average teen series, making for a worthwhile trip to the cinema. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Battle Royale* (2000), *Series 7: The Contenders* (2001), *Twilight* (2008).

EASTER APPEAL

LLAMAU, the homelessness charity, is asking people to remember those who don't have anyone to spoil them at Easter.

A spokesman appealed "As you start to squirrel away chocolate treasure, pop an extra egg into your basket for a young homeless person."

"We work throughout south Wales and have an office near you. Call us now on 02920 239585 to find your nearest Llamau office.

"Alternatively, drop off your Easter egg to your nearest Staples store, which is collecting them on our behalf."

WHAT'S ON / *in brief*

Toys and trains

CARDIFF toy and train sale will be held on Saturday, April 7 at Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan between 10.30am and 3pm. Telephone 01643 702757 or 07966 694579 or visit www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

Lavernock service

FRIENDS of St Lawrence at Lavernock are holding the first service of the year on Easter Sunday, April 8 at 3pm and all are welcome to the listed building, associated with the medieval village of Cosmeston.

The service will be led by the Rev Margaret Stark, Honorary Chaplain to the Friends of St Lawrence at Lavernock, and the organist will be Miss Ann Thomas. Enquiries to 02920 701300 or 701303.

Eisteddfod curry

ON Wednesday April 18 at 7 pm, a curry evening is organised by Quest Hair Salon at Jaipur Indian Restaurant, East Street, Llantwit Major.

In aid of the National Eisteddfod 2012, there's a choice of dishes, cost £16. For information and tickets from Quest, telephone 01446 793563.

The Highwayman Inn

Open all day Good Friday, Easter Saturday & Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday

MEALS SERVED EVERY DAY
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Monday - Saturday: 12 noon - 3pm
Just a small example: Hand Battered Cod, Ham, Egg & Chips, 6oz Gammon Steak, Steak & Ale Pie, Scampi, Liver & Onions - *Plus many more!*
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Saturday, 7th April
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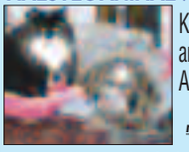

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www.maesteganimalrescue.co.uk
Thanking everyone for their continued support

In aid of Ed Evans Foundation and Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society
Tractor Boys of Aberthin
(in conjunction with The Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society)
will be holding a
Vintage Tractor Road Run
on Sunday April 22
Starting from Frank Sutton Agriculture Dealer, St Mary Hill, nr Bridgend CF35 5DU
Junction 35 M4, follow road across Llantrisant A473, next roundabout take road to Llanilltud St Mary Hill (will be signposted).
Coffee and tea to start with, lunch at Race Track Café, Llandow, nr Cowbridge. 9.30am for 10.00am start
Entrance is £10.00 Tractor and £5.00 for Lunch
No need to book in, please just turn up, 4x4 welcome.
For further information, contact:-
Basil George 01656 654440
Martyn 07973 889712
Jeff 07544 725223
or see Facebook page *'Tractor Boys of Aberthin'*

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Good Friday 6th April
Mike Gregory
Swinging Blue Jeans
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Saturday 7th April
Maria Lynn
Female Vocalist

Easter Sunday 8th April
Iain Scott
Male Vocalist

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www.firejoust.com
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NATIONAL HUNT HORSE RACING
Ystrad Taf Fechan
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at Uplands Farm, YSTRADOWEN, Cowbridge
Saturday, 14th April - 1st Race 2.00 pm

Pleased to host the
AREA FEATURE PLACE
£1,000 prize money and the AGA Ladies Open Qualifying Race
Enquiries: Call Leanne 07890 373340
Shaunna 07737 532509 or Phil 07802 799131
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What's on and where with The Glamorgan GEM

Fontygary LEISURE PARK
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Good Friday Evening
April 6th - Free Entry
PAUL NEEDS
(60's/70's covers)

Easter Saturday April 7th Evening
PHONIKA *(Harmony Band)* Free Entry

Easter Sunday April 8th Evening
Free Entry
ICE TRAX *(Vocal/Instrumental Duo)*

Plus Easter Sunday Afternoon
DAVE LEE JONES
in Bar on the Bay

Plus FREE kids evening entertainment in Bar on the Bay - Fri/Sat/Sun & Mon + Bouncy Castle on Easter Sun/Mon (weather permitting).

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• Farm Trail • School holiday free activity days
• Eighteenth Century Orangery and Tudor Gothic Mansion
• Free Entry, Car Parking £3.90 for the day

Bank Holiday Events
9th April, Easter Monday: Down on the Farm
Enjoy the Sheep Show with 'Mobby' the Norfolk Horn and his eight other woolly friends; see Colin Gordon with his amazing sheepdogs, meet Jive Pony and watch Joseph's amazing racing pigs.
Adults £7.00, Child/OAP £6 Family (2+3) £26.00.

30th May, Bank Holiday Monday:
Pirates and Princesses Family Fun Day
Shiver me timbers! Join in with the pirates and princesses. Pirate shows, princess storytelling and meet our very own Captain Jack Sparrow. Don't forget to come in your best pirate and princess costumes.
Adults £5.50, Child/OAP's £4.50, family (2+3) £26

For more information about the Park and events call 01639 881635 www.margamcountrypark.co.uk
Like our facebook page for all the latest news and activities.

History in Dinas

THE next meeting of Dinas Powys Local History Society is on Tuesday, April 10, at 7.30pm in the Kynance Hall.

There will be an illustrated talk by John Wilmot on the story of Snape Maltings and the port on the Alde.

A fee of £2 for non-members and £1.50 for members will be charged. Enquiries to Betty Williams on 02920 513524.

Dementia advice

IF you care for anyone with dementia or suffer from early onset of this condition, Ty Hapus will be available at the Senior Helath Shop, Holton Road, Barry, on April 10 (10am-12 noon) for advice. Contact 01446 732385.

Castleland advice

Castleland communities ward co-ordinator will be available for advice on April 12 (10am-12 midday) at the Senior Health Shop, Holton Road, Barry. Contact 01446 732385.

Peterston table top sale

THERE will be a table top sale in Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall in aid of hall funds on Saturday, April 14 from 10am-12 noon.

Entry is free and everyone is welcome.

To book a table and for further details, contact Pat on 01446 760267, tables are £5.

This is in addition to the usual village market which is held on the second Saturday of every month in the small hall from 10am-12 noon.

The market includes homemade cakes, preserves, produce, plants and an extensive collection of books.

Freshly brewed Fairtrade coffee and teas will be served.

All proceeds go towards the improvement and maintenance of the hall.

Eisteddfod lecture

ON Friday, April 20, as part of the build-up to this year's Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod, Professor Geraint H Jenkins, of the Learned Society of Wales, will speak at St Donat's Arts Centre (Atlantic College) on The Prince of Welsh Romantics: Iolo Morganwg and his legacy.

The free lecture is at 6.30pm, and will be followed by a reception. All are welcome. For more information, telephone 02920 376971.

Brahms Requiem

THE Cardiff Polyphonic Choir lines up with Elizabeth Donovan (soprano) and Andrew Ashwin (baritone) and with pianists Maria Angel Garcia Soria and Thomas Worley to sing Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem* on Friday, April 20 at the Dora Stoutzker Hall, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Full details and online tickets are available on the choir's website www.cardiffpolyphonic.org.uk.

NEXT GREAT SHOW...
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SATURDAY, 7th APRIL, 2012
10.30am - 3.00pm
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Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Bachmann, Lima, etc *and much, much more* – 90 plus Tables,
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Children's Menu Available

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Let us know about your events - email us at *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk* or tweet us *@gem_news*

Meet the NFU Mutual Bridgend and The Vale team at our open evening
between 4 & 7pm on Wednesday 11th April,
at Unit 1a, Morien House,
Bridgend Business Centre, Bridgend CF31 3SH

Julian, Dave and the team look forward to giving you a tour of our new facilities, followed by cheese and wine.
In the meantime, you are always welcome to pop in and visit us at any time.
Office Opening Hours are 8.30am - 5.00pm Monday - Friday
(Out of hours customer support centre
Monday to Friday 5pm - 8pm , Saturday 9am - 12.30pm)
Unit 1A, Morien House, Bridgend Business Centre CF31 3SH
Telephone *numbers have remained unchanged*
01656 653111 or 01446 772057
Email: bridgend_agency@nfumutual.co.uk
www.nfumutual.co.uk/bridgend
NFU Mutual

Remploy turns to pet beds...

MP praises work of Bridgend Remploy

Julie Bungay, Madeleine Moon MP, Jackie Davies and Stuart Newell at the Remploy factory in Bridgend.

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon visited Remploy to meet Stuart Newell, the acting manager, to discuss the future of the factory.

Mrs Moon said: "With the uncertainty surrounding Remploy's future in Bridgend and throughout Britain I thought it was imperative, having helped them through a similar problem a few years ago, that I showed them they still had my full support in these worrying times.

"Mr Newell explained that the factory is continuing to work for their regular contracts Ford, Harman and Cable & Harness, who have been customers for years. The factory has also expanded production into a new concept of mattress recycling.

"An innovative idea, the Bridgend factory is currently taking up to 500 'end of life mattresses' a week, deconstructing, recycling the recovered materials and manufacturing them into cat and dog beds.

"Two enthusiastic employees, Julie Bungay and Jackie Davies, are the driving force behind this new idea. They both design and create the beds before selling them at local craft shows, where they have been a great success. Mr Newell hopes in future to have a shop on site selling the pet beds."

The MP added: "I was particularly impressed that as well as the recycling work, Remploy is also looking towards the future with an active training scheme. The scheme is designed to assist current employees in keeping up with new technology, and to ease new employees back into the world of work at a pace best suited to them."

Bridgend Hockey retain Welsh shield

BRIDGEND Hockey are celebrating after the Men's 1st XI retained their Welsh Shield title after overcoming strong opposition from Swansea University 4-3 (after extra time) in the final at the National Hockey Centre at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

After a notable victory in the semi-final over previously unbeaten Cardiff Medics, Bridgend's appearance in the final was their fifth in five years.

It was known that the students would put pressure on Bridgend, but the Ravens' experience, desire and commitment pulled through in the end.

Swansea went ahead after 10 minutes, at which point it looked as if it could be a long day for Bridgend, but they fought back strongly with the defence of Paul Davies, Rhys Owen and Neall Hollis featuring well.

They took the lead thanks to goals from Jon Rubery and a well-worked goal by Nick Anthony.

With the midfield three of Steve Murphy, Andrew Jones and captain Rhydian Cole working tirelessly, and goalkeeper Adrian Hibbert on top form throughout, a late goal by the students meant they drew level at 2-2, forcing extra time.

Despite going 3-2 down early on, the greater experience came out on top, together with notable contributions from Tom Hopkins, Paul Jones, Richard Knight and Lewis Hearne, along with the evergreen Jon Catton and Andy Schofield.

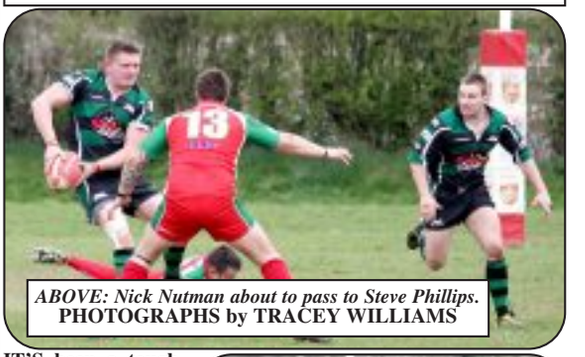
A penalty flick was converted by David Knight and with their tails up, Nick Anthony rounded the Swansea University 'keeper to seal a memorable victory and begin the celebrations.

Anyone interested in joining Bridgend Hockey should visit www.bridgendhc.co.uk, or email: secretary@bridgendhc.co.uk.

RC

Porthcawl take comfort from spirited fightback

BRYNCETHIN 32 PORTHCAWL 18



ABOVE: Nick Nutman about to pass to Steve Phillips.
PHOTOGRAPHS by TRACEY WILLIAMS

IT'S been a tough season for the Seaweeds and the trip to league-leaders Bryncethin would prove to be a stern challenge.

The signs looked ominous as the home side quickly got into their usual up-tempo game plan and when they pushed the score to 20 points without reply, through two penalties and two converted tries, a hard afternoon seemed in prospect.

But this young Porthcawl side has a more dogged edge now and began to put some good play together, only the final pass often denying them deserved points on the board.

When Tim Richards pulled back a penalty for a half-time score of 20–3, at least the signs were looking brighter.

Indeed, as the home side tried to maintain their early dominance, it was Porthcawl that scored the try of the match, as wing Tom Smith intercepted on his own 22-metre line and outpaced the 'Cethin defence for a superb score over 78 metres, and a score of 20–8.

This gave Porthcawl huge confidence and they started putting the home side under pressure by knocking them out of their usual stride.

When full-back Ollie Jones sliced through for a great try, converted by Richards, all of a sudden at 20–15 the Seaweeds were well back in contention. A further Richards penalty for 20–18 suggested an upset could be on the cards, but a home try for 25–18 going into injury time left Porthcawl another hill to climb.

When, as the last move of the match, Bryncethin secured their final converted try for 32–18, it was game over.

That said, the Seaweeds pushed them all the way and, but for some close calls when points went begging, Porthcawl could well have nicked it.

Coach for the day Blair Driscoll was well-pleased with his side's efforts which should see them offer a much better prospect when Banwen visit South Road on Saturday.

ABOVE: Ollie Jones with the ball with Gareth Richards (left) in support.

Upcoming meeting

THE next meeting of the Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers will be held on Thursday April 12 at Kynance Hall, Dinas Powys at 7.30pm. Gareth Jones from the British Wool Marketing Board will give a general presentation on the BWMB's role and activities, market situation and the Campaign for Wool.

Tickets are £2 for members, £5 for visitors. For further details call Kirsten Gable on 01443 650336 or email kirstengable@gmail.com

Ty Hafan winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D716.

- **£2,000:** 515574.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £7,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 729705, 337419, 337848, 510790, 813225, 798755, 735213, 380749, 710624, 529872, 589707, 893238, 504012, 933534, 451049, 243874, 613150, 492701, 388226, 405520.
- **£5:** 749718, 278122, 260818, 200649, 245964, 468897, 943869, 896941, 477032, 120387, 848978, 636717, 555158, 503604, 781066, 257211, 569896, 848318, 139809, 355511, 236084, 853110, 307931, 374116, 742829, 672058, 449497, 851706, 562461, 183037, 705459, 757090, 354967, 149275, 755393, 836034, 693591, 891094, 311103, 741680, 166025, 827804, 327826, 666250, 393744, 883342, 170578, 166658, 847989, 556633, 254285, 504648, 414401, 853986, 169646, 717528, 182272, 808602, 101592, 862154.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 02920 672062.

Register for Ty Hafan's midnight sleep walk

LONG-time Ty Hafan supporter, John Barrowman, will be there to spur on the ladies and girls taking part in the 'Tiaras and Pyjamas'-themed Midnight Sleep Walk on Friday, May 4.

The event starts at midnight with a pitch-side lap of the Millennium Stadium before walkers head into Cardiff City Centre and down towards the Bay before returning to the stadium; a total of six miles.

Registrations are already coming in for this well-established event so would-be participants are advised not to leave it too late.

It's only £10 to register but if you take along four friends, the five of you will get a discount of £20 on your total group registration fee. This means your group will only pay £30.

You can register online at www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk or you can ring the events team on 02920 672065 to secure your place.

John with 14-year-old Victoria Godwin at Ty Hafan

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The GEM is proud to be an official partner of the 2012 National Eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan
Mae'r GEM yn falch o fod yn un o bartneriaid swyddogol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg, 2012

All the latest news from the Eisteddfod team. Improve your language skills, your business or simply your golf!

THE National Eisteddfod is creating an online directory of local businesses in this year's Eisteddfod catchment area. This will be updated regularly between May and August this year.

A total of 150,000-160,000 people will visit the area for the National Eisteddfod on the old airfield at Llandow near Cowbridge and Llantwit Major from August 4-11.

Only businesses offering a relevant service to visitors during the week will be included in this directory. This is an opt in directory and organisers will only include information supplied by local businesses onto the website. Packs will be distributed to businesses in the Vale.

If you are a local business and would like to receive a pack, contact the organisers at gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk. It is hoped to have the online directory up and running by the beginning of May. Details of additional businesses will be added regularly.

Appeal for Caravans

EVERY year hundreds of caravanners will set up home on the Eisteddfod's caravan site, next to the festival site at Llandow. Some will bring their own caravans while others will be looking for caravans to rent for the week.

Organisers have already received numerous requests for caravans from people wishing to stay on the caravan site but who do not have their own caravans to bring. Do you have a touring caravan you could rent to these Eisteddfod visitors for the week?

Could you help the Eisteddfod in this way and make some money at the same time? If so, contact the Eisteddfod Office : 02920 763 777 sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk

2012 golf competition

YET again this year, there will be a competition for Eisteddfod supporters who enjoy a round of golf. The Eisteddfod's own golf competition is in its 27th year, and a group of keen golfers will get together to take part in the tournament at Brynhill Golf Club on the outskirts of Barry.

The competition was held for the first time in 1985, when the Eisteddfod visited Rhyl, and over the following quarter of a century, supporters have been able to play on some of Wales' best courses. This year, the open competition will be held on Wednesday, August 8 and the intention is to hold an additional competition for lady golfers on Thursday, August 9 (to be confirmed).

For more information, contact Duncan Prior the club pro on 01446 720277. For information on the course visit www.brynhillgolfclub.co.uk and we look forward to seeing you on the day!

Entry fee is £20 with a donation going towards the National Eisteddfod

Want to learn Welsh for the Eisteddfod?

IT'S often assumed that you need to speak Welsh to attend the Eisteddfod but there are so many activities to enjoy during the festival, whether you speak the language or not.

You can enjoy musical performances from the likes of Only Men Aloud, Dennis O'Neill and Rebecca Evans, visit 'Y Lle Celf' which is Wales' largest mobile national art gallery to admire or even purchase artwork, enjoy delicious food and walk along lane after lane of stalls selling a variety of items including clothing, local crafts, jewellery and even furniture!

However it's also the perfect place to practice your Welsh if you're learning or to get more information if you've always thought about learning the language but haven't got round to it yet.

It's also the perfect time to start doing so, as you'll have so many people you can practice your Welsh with! During Eisteddfod week, make sure you visit Maes D to pick up information about learning Welsh.

Maes D is the home for learners and would-be learners at the Eisteddfod – a pavilion where you can take part in Welsh taster sessions, participate in workshops, socialise with other learners over a cuppa or enjoy a variety of performances.

If you can't wait until August to start learning, contact the Eisteddfod's Learners Officer, Gwennol Haf, for information about how you can learn Welsh in the Vale – 0845 4090 300 or gwennol@eisteddfod.org.uk .

Gwennol can also provide free Welsh taster sessions for businesses wanting to give a warm Welsh welcome to Eisteddfod visitors over the summer, contact her to find out more.

The highlight of the year for anyone involved with learning Welsh will be Wednesday, August 8, when the winner of the Welsh Learner of the Year 2012 award will be announced in a special ceremony at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

This year the competition is sponsored by Agored Cymru.

The closing date for applications was March 31 and we are pleased to announce that this year we have attracted the highest number of applicants ever, which shows that the competition and the language is strengthening from year to year.

The Learner of the Year trophy is donated by the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre, Cardiff University, and the financial prize of £300 is given by the Gwynfor Fund, Barry.

Three other finalists will each receive £100 from the Gwynfor Fund and a trophy from the Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Welsh for Adults Centre.

You can now follow Maes D on Twitter, @MaesD_Steddfod to get the latest news about our activities. We look forward to welcoming you to the Eisteddfod and Maes D in August!

Welsh phrase of the week: 'Diolch yn fawr' (Dee-ol-ugh un vowr), which means 'Thank-you very much'!

SIONED EDWARDS

Cofrestrwch i fod yng nghyfeirlyfr busnes yr Eisteddfod

MAE'R Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yn creu cyfeirlyfr arlein ar gyfer busnesau lleol yn nalgylch yr Eisteddfod eleni. Bydd yn ymddangos ar wefan yr Eisteddfod ac yn cael ei ddiweddaru'n rheolaidd o fis Mai tan fis Awst.

Bydd 150,000-160,000 o ymwelwyr yn dod i'r ardal o Awst 4-11 eleni ar gyfer un o wyliau mawr y byd a gynhelir ar dir hen faes awyr Llandw, ger Y Bontfaen a Llanilltud Fawr.

Bwriad y cyfeirlyfr yw rhoi syniad i'r ymwelwyr o'r adnoddau a'r busnesau sydd ar gael er mwyn eu helpu i fwynhau'r Eisteddfod a'r ardal leol. Dim ond busnesau sy'n cynnig gwasanaeth sy'n berthnasol yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod fydd yn cael eu cynnwys yn y cyfeirlyfr hwn.

Llawlyfr optio mewn fydd hwn, felly dim ond gwybodaeth gan fusnesau sy'n cysylltu gyda ni fydd yn cael ei gynnwys yn y cyfeirlyfr.

Rydym yn dosbarthu pecynnau i fusnesau ardal Bro Morgannwg. Os hoffech chi dderbyn pecyn a rydych yn rhedeg busnes yn y dalgylch, gadewch i ni wybod drwy anfon ebost atom – gwyb@eisteddfod.org.uk, neu gallwch archebu pecyn yn rhad ac am ddim o'n siop arlein drwy glicio ar 'Adnoddau'.

Apêl am Garafanau

POB blwyddyn hefyd mi fydd nifer o garafannwyr yn ymgartrefu ar Faes Carafanau swyddogol yr Eisteddfod fydd yn cael ei lleoli drws nesaf i'r brif Faes yn Llandw ar gyrion y Bontfaen.

Fe fydd rhai yn dod a'u carafán eu hunain ond eraill yn chwilio am garafanau i logi am yr wythnos.

Mae'r Eisteddfod wedi derbyn nifer o geisiadau gan bobl sydd yn awyddus i aros ar y Maes carafanau ond heb garafan eu hunain ac felly yn chwilio am un i logi. Oes gyda chi garafán y byddwch yn barod i'w logi i Eisteddfodwr am yr wythnos?

Fedrwch chi helpu'r Eisteddfod a gwneud ceiniog neu ddau yr un pryd? Os felly cysylltwch â Swyddfa'r Eisteddfod 02920 763 777, sioned@eisteddfod.org.uk

Cystadleuaeth golff 2012

UNWAITH yn rhagor eleni bydd cystadlaethau yn ystod yr wythnos i gefnogwyr yr Eisteddfod sy'n mwynhau rownd o golff.

Mae cystadleuaeth golff yr Eisteddfod sydd yn ei seithfed blwyddyn ar hugain am gael ei chynnal ar gwrs Golff Brynhill ar gyrion tref Y Barri.

Cynhaliwyd y gystadleuaeth am y tro cyntaf yn 1985, pan oedd yr Eisteddfod yn Y Rhyl, a thros y chwarter canrif ers hynny, mae cefnogwyr wedi cael chwarae ar rai o gyrsiau gorau Cymru.

Cynhelir y gystadleuaeth agored ar Ddydd Mercher, Awst 8 ac mae bwriad i gynnal cystadleuaeth arbennig ychwanegol i'r merched ar Ddydd Iau, Awst 9 (i'w gadarnhau).

Am ragor o wybodaeth cysylltwch â Duncan Prior, pro y

clwb ar 01446 720277. Am wybodaeth am y cwrs ewch i'w gwefan sef www.brynhillgolfclub.co.uk

Pris am gystadlu eleni fydd £20 a bydd cyfraniad o'r ffi yn mynd tuag at yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

Dysgu Cymraeg ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod

UN myth am yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol yw bod yn rhaid i chi siarad Cymraeg i'w fwynhau ond mae cymaint o weithgareddau i'w profi yn ystod yr wˆyl, os ydych yn siarad yr iaith neu beidio.

Fe allwch fwynhau perfformiadau cerddorol gan 'Only Men Aloud', Dennis O'Neill a Rebecca Evans, ymweld â'r Lle Celf, oriel gelf genedlaethol symudol mwyaf Cymru i edmygu neu hyd yn oed brynu'r gwaith celf, mwynhau bwyd blasus a cherdded ar hyd lonydd o stondinau yn gwerthu amrywiaeth o eitemau gan gynnwys dillad, crefftau lleol, gemwaith a hyd yn oed dodrefn ty^!

Ond mae hefyd yn lle perffaith i ymarfer eich Cymraeg os ydych yn dysgu neu i gael mwy o wybodaeth os ydych wedi bod yn ystyried gwneud. Mae hefyd yn amser perffaith i ddechrau dysgu gan y bydd cymaint o bobl o gwmpas i'ch helpu i ymarfer eich Cymraeg!

Yn ystod wythnos yr Eisteddfod cofiwch ymweld â Maes D i gasglu gwybodaeth am ddysgu Cymraeg. Maes D yw cartref dysgwyr a darpar ddysgwyr yn yr Eisteddfod – pafiliwn lle gallwch gael sesiynau blasu'r Gymraeg, cymryd rhan mewn gweithdai, cymdeithasu â dysgwyr eraill dros baned neu fwynhau amrywiaeth o berfformiadau.

Os na allwch chi aros tan fis Awst i ddechrau dysgu cysylltwch â Swyddog Dysgwyr yr Eisteddfod, Gwennol Haf am wybodaeth ar sut allwch chi ddysgu Cymraeg yn y Fro – 0845 4090 300 / gwennol@eisteddfod.org.uk .

Fe all Gwennol hefyd ddarparu sesiynau blasu'r Gymraeg yn rhad ac am ddim i fusnesau sydd am roi croeso cynnes Cymreig i ymwelwyr yr Eisteddfod dros yr haf, cysylltwch â hi am fwy o wybodaeth.

Uchafbwynt y flwyddyn i unrhywun sy'n ymwneud â dysgu Cymraeg yw dydd Mercher, Awst 8 pan fydd enillydd gwobr Dysgwr y Flwyddyn 2012 yn cael ei gyhoeddi mewn seremoni arbennig yng Ngwesty'r Bear, y Bontfaen. Eleni noddir y gystadleuaeth gan Agored Cymru.

Y dyddiad cau am geisiadau oedd Mawrth 31 ac mae'n bleser gennym gyhoeddi ein bod wedi cael y nifer fwyaf o geisiadau erioed eleni, sy'n dangos fod y gystadleuaeth a'r iaith yn cryfhau o flwyddyn i flwyddyn.

Mae tlws Dysgwr y Flwyddyn yn rhoddedig gan Ganolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg, Prifysgol Caerdydd, a'r wobr o £300 yn rhoddedig gan Gronfa Gwynfor, Y Barri. Bydd y tri chystadleuydd arall yn y rownd derfynol yn derbyn £100 yr un gan Gronfa Gwynfor, a thlws yr un gan Ganolfan Cymraeg i Oedolion Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg.

Fe allwch chi ddilyn Maes D ar Twitter, @MaesD_Steddfod i gael y newyddion diweddaraf am ein gweithgareddau. Edrychwn ymlaen at eich croesawu i'r Eisteddfod a Maes D ym mis Awst!

Recycling Store welcomes its 1,000th customer

THE Recycling Store in Bridgend which opened six months ago, has welcomed its 1,000th customer on Bridgend Industrial Estate.

A new concept in recycling, it offers a convenient, compliant recycling service in Bridgend for households and businesses to recycle their waste.

The store accepts all types of ferrous and non-ferrous metals, broken or unwanted electrical and electronic equipment including vacuum cleaners, toasters, computer equipment, printers, wiring, small machinery and second-hand clothes in a wearable condition.

Customer number 1,000 was Martyn Clatworthy of M&D Services in Bridgend, who was presented with a bottle of champagne.

Buyer Craig Evans said: "The future for The Recycling Store looks very promising, with local interest increasing.

"People are pleased to be able to clear out their lofts, sheds, garages and spare rooms of unwanted metals and electrical junk and be able to trade their unwanted items in for a little cash and the knowledge that their items will be re-used or recycled."

The Recycling Store is part of the world's largest metal recycling company, Sims Metal Management, and is situated in Raven Close, Bridgend Industrial Estate. for further information on what can be accepted, please call Craig Evans on 0800 6526011 or go to www.the-recycling-store.co.uk.

Penarth Computer Club – PACE OF CHANGE

IF you get the impression that everything is happening at once in the technical world of computing, you are quite right! If you are confused, baffled and behind the times, you are not alone.

I find the pace of change fascinating, but keeping up is challenging intellectually and can be expensive. I have to be selective and adjust to circumstances

The trouble is the sheer range of duties that computers now perform. Whereas a vacuum cleaner has been around for longer and still sucks dust out of your carpet, the computer – devised to improve the reliability of calculations – has become the Swiss army knife of electronics.

Computing is at the heart of digital cameras, telephones, web browsing, music making, broadcasting and so on. There isn't one that makes the coffee (as far as I am aware), but your home appliances are now programmable remotely.

Trials are in progress to prove that computers can drive your car for you. It seems to be working. Sat-Nav. systems will need improvement to maintain overall safety.

Continued product development is quickening; manufacturers are able to improve their computers, operating systems and software applications at ever-shortening intervals.

The first serious version of Windows (3.1) was released in 1992 and went through a series of tweaks until a major step forward with Windows XP in 2001 (13 years).

The next major change was Windows 7 in late 2009 (via Windows Vista).

Windows 8 is expected later in 2012, after only three years. Yet many users are still happy to carry on using XP.

Apple computers have similarly gone through a process of development starting with the Apple Macintosh (Mac) and spreading its wings into the wider market with the iPod (music player); iPhone (telephone, texting, browsing and emailing, with built-in camera) and then the iPad (a hand-held computer with all of the above and more).

Apple stays ahead of its competitors by innovation and better design. That's not just me talking, but the general view of the press – and the public who buy the products and regard the better quality worth the higher price.

The iPad is now in its third version in three years, the latest having a much improved screen definition, as well as other bells and whistles.

My approach to a prospective purchase is to read about it to get the feel of people at large (not just the manufacturer's hype). Then I go for the best specification I can afford; trying to avoid paying for features that will never be used.

Then I stick with it until either significant improvements have been made or the kit is showing severe signs of age. It means that I do not have the very latest gadgets, but I have been happy with my policy for the last 20 years without bearing the high cost of keeping pace with continued product improvement.

Anyone care to hazard a guess when a single universal gadget will be on the market to do everything?

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 10 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, at 7.30pm. Rhona and Mike F will be looking at words, books and pictures. For more information, ring Mike on 02920 309579.

Howard Desmond, chairman.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00223/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Remove and replace existing flagpole. Install two new architectural flagpoles with internal halyard
Location:/Lleoliad: Town Hall, Church Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II*

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00235/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair, up-grade and convert to residential use the existing listed barns
Location:/Lleoliad: West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw Barns, Aberthaw
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00258/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to install an external radio antenna on the rear of the Old Hall to provide IT network connectivity.
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Hall, Community Centre, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00262/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Renewal of previously granted consent 2006/00069/LBC
Location:/Lleoliad: Church Farm Barns, Church Farm, Clemenstone
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00264/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair and replace perished bathstone with new to the following areas: ballusters, high level cornice, curved cornice, due to falling masonry.
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, Windsor Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00273/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to install two external radio antennae on the school to provide IT network connectivity.
Location:/Lleoliad: Rhws Junior and Infants School, Fontygary Road, Rhoose
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00276/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to install an external radio antenna on the rear of Albert Primary school to provide IT network connectivity
Location:/Lleoliad: Albert Primary School, Albert Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00216/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Extension of two cattle accommodation buildings.
Location:/Lleoliad: Pancross Farm, Llancarfan, Barry

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00254/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Construction of portal frame agricultural cattle building 36.59m (120ft) x 30.49m (100ft) x 4.39m (12ft) to eaves
Location:/Lleoliad: Sutton Newydd Farm, Sutton Road, Llandow

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00238/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Stroke Rehabilitation Centre. Construction of two twin-storey links between wards East 3/4 and East 5/6. Demolition of wards East 3/4 and East 5/6 existing Day Rooms and construction of new 4 bed wards
Location:/Lleoliad: Llandough Hospital, Penlan Road, Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00244/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Siting of four mobile homes to accommodate agricultural workers
Location:/Lleoliad: Pancross Farm, Llancarfan, Barry

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2012/00263/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of Condition 2 of approved application 2008/01297/FUL to extend period of development/works
Location:/Lleoliad: Vianshill Farm, St. Nicholas

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00234/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Repair, up-grade and convert to residential use the existing listed barns
Location:/Lleoliad: West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Dated: 5th April, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry.
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 5 Ebrill, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri.
CF63 4RT

A WELCOME RETURN FOR THE FAMILY-RUN PYLE GARDEN CENTRE

ON Saturday, March 31 in a blaze of sunshine (which he must have conjured up especially for the occasion), BBC Weatherman Derek Brockway formally opened the Pyle Garden Centre.

Derek cut the ribbon that paved the way for shoppers to enter and, once inside, he was surrounded by fans who queued to buy signed copies of his books.

A reception was later held with guests, including the First Minister, Carwyn Jones, Terry Walton, the Radio 2 allotment gardener and Lynne Allbutt, the gardening writer.

Carwyn Jones and Derek were happy to be photographed together, along with the centre owners, the James Family.

The First Minister commented on how pleased he was that the garden centre was back in full swing. As a youngster, he could remember when it first opened in 1974 on the same site in Pyle, and how marvellous everyone thought that it was at the time.

In those days, the centre was a completely new experience which became a magnet for those wanting plants, garden tools and furniture, as well as exotic fish and other small pets.

For the James brothers, it was a personal tribute to their late father, local businessman Geoff James. It was his idea 38 years ago, and now his four sons have taken it back to its roots, running it independently once again.

Stuart Smart, Pyle's horticultural manager, said: "We want our customers to have a happy experience and return again with new gardening ideas which can help put the feel-good factor back into their garden!"

RIGHT: Derek meets people during a tour of the garden centre.

BELOW: First Minister, Carwyn Jones and Mrs Marian James, widow of the founder. Also in the picture, LEFT to RIGHT, are: Rob James, Mike James, Derek Brockway and Julian James.

ABOVE: Young Anna presents garden expert Lynne Allbutt with an example of the new Pyle Garden Centre's wares.

ABOVE: A fond goodbye from Derek to Marian.

REPORT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEITH E MORGAN

Derek signing one of his books for Heulwen Strathearn.

BELOW: LEFT to RIGHT: Jayne James, Couns Gaynor and David Newton-Williams, representing Porthcawl Town Council, First Minister Carwyn Jones and BBC Weatherman Derek Brockway.

THANK YOU TO UK FOR GIVING US ONE OF YOUR FINEST DAUGHTERS — GI BRIDE S STORY

FROM HOMELY PENARTH TO THE WIDE OPEN SPACES OF AMERICA

THE 'Wartime Weekend' to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the American troops coming to the Vale of Glamorgan will take place over the weekend of June 16-17 at the Barry Waterfront. Further details can be found on the 'barryatwar' website. Glen Booker continues his series about some of the Vale women who married GIs during the Second World War. Glen explained: "In June 2010, I made contact with Mrs Joy Stanley in Washington State, USA. Her youngest son, Mr Steve Stanley, has written this very interesting account of the life and times of his mother..."

MOM was born on April 20, 1925 in Cardiff and her father, Frank Townend, was born in Stepney, east London. Her mother Gladys Morgan hailed from St Mellons, which is now part of Cardiff; growing up in the west end of London in the Shepherd's Bush area and returning to Wales in 1942 to live in Penarth while her father was posted with the RAF as an anti-aircraft battery training officer.

Currans

AT the age of 17, mom made the daily trek to Cardiff from Penarth to work at the Currans Foundry (Dumballs Road, Cardiff Bay) manufacturing tank tracks, as the war effort was in full swing.

She often recalls the hard, heavy work and the rotating shift work. It was her job to pour the moulds for the track links. To this very day, her back suffers from the heavy lifting.

Joy Vanessa Townend met Sergeant Utah Stanley, US Army, at the Esplanade pub and hotel in Penarth spring of 1944. Mom and some of her girlfriends were having a shandy (usually more lemonade than beer) and dad was on a pass from G-40 near Barry.

My dad went to Africa in 1942 with the 2nd Armored Div. He was assigned to the motor company at G-40 after convalescing from wounds suffered in Italy.

He was awaiting the D-day invasions. Mom recalls him going to France, but he did not talk about the separation a great deal.

Wedding

AFTER the end of war in Europe, dad returned to Penarth and he and mom were wed on August 18, 1945. They often talked about the counselling with Army Chaplains about the pending marriage, but through some red tape and with some pleading from my father with US Army officials, they finally got the blessing of Uncle Sam.

USA

DAD departed the UK in January 1946 and mom followed on a Liberty ship in March of that same year. The crossing of the Atlantic in the early spring was very rough going – she was pretty much sea sick for the better part of the voyage.

Arriving in New York City in late March, she and many of the other women boarded trains bound for Chicago – Chicago was the dispersal point for all the war brides going past the Mississippi river.

On the train that she boarded, she was the one going the farthest, the second to last being a woman debarking in Montana. She arrived in Wenatchee, Washington late at night on April 3, 1946.

Plassey Street, Penarth – VE Day.

The Curran Five!

Shock is how she described the trip across the US, especially after leaving Chicago – its vastness and no towns of any real size, let alone a city such as she was accustomed to. She recalled the enormous mountains and free running rivers of the western US.

My dad and his sister Dorothy were there to meet her. Mom always talks about the first pan she and dad bought the very next morning before travelling the 67 miles up the Columbia River to her new home in Brewster, Washington. To this very day, that pan is still used almost daily!

Meeting the family

MEETING her in-laws was intimidating. Her sisters-in-law welcomed her with open arms, as well as dad's three brothers. However, the welcome mat ended there. Matt and Mary Stanley, my dad's parents, acted very indifferently towards her at first. Over the years, those feelings changed.

Neither mom nor dad knew anyone in the area. Dad had enlisted in the US Army in Texas, where he was born and raised; the family had moved to Washington State during the war years.

The land of milk and honey was dry of milk and shy of honey

MONEY was very hard to come by and times were lean. Jobs were few at the end of the war for many of the returning GIs. Most of dad's savings were used by the family over the years to meet their needs. Their first home was a three-room farm worker's cabin. Utah had to take a job working in an apple orchard where his father was foreman.

Joy Stanley.

Sergeant Utah Stanley.

She often talks of how bad my father felt for not having a better life to bring her to. Prior to the war, dad worked for the railroad in Texas, but by not returning to that part of the US he was not able to retain that job.

They would often recall that first cold winter with only wood heat and a wood cook stove in the drafty little cabin they called home.

I have always had the distinct impression that they would have not changed a part of that looking back.

In July of 1946, my brother Frank was born in Okanogan, Washington, the first of three children.

Homesickness

HOMESICKNESS and loneliness were the order of the day while dad was at work and mom wondered what she had done.

Love and her fortitude prevailed and she kept on track. She is the strongest woman I have ever had the pleasure to know. One can only imagine what that must have been like to leave all you know and go to a strange place so far from home.

Keep in mind that this was before the days of just jumping on a plane to go for a visit – often she talks of tears she shed in private.

After a brief time in Nevada in 1947, dad got a job working for the Great Northern Railroad after returning to Washington State.

Mom recalls not liking the deserts or Nevada. She said she hated it. Strong words for my dear mom.

In 1950, my sister Pam was born in Quincy, Washington. Shortly after Pam's arrival, dad started working construction on the great hydro electric dams of the Pacific Northwest.

At about this time, they purchased their first home in Pateros, Washington, where they resided for over 35 years.

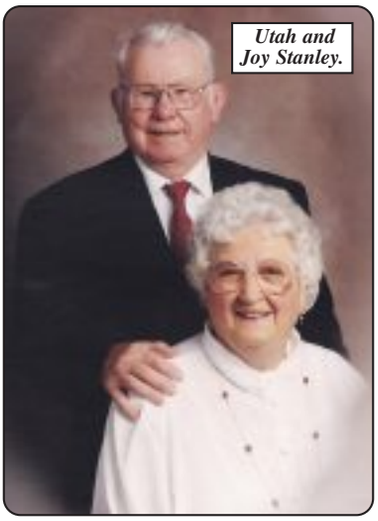
Finally settled down, mom decided she wanted to work for extra income. Being the largest apple producing region in the world, it was only natural that mom started working in the packing plants.

Going to apple packing school in 1954, she worked the long, gruelling hours on hard concrete floors for the next 30 years. This was certainly not what one could call a cushy job. The only consolation is the fact that the work was indoors.

However, during the summer months she worked in the orchards with my brother and sister. That was a way for the kids to make some of their own money. They had to be accompanied by an adult and mom was there like she always is.

Back home

IN 1957, she made her first return visit home. She recalls the excitement of seeing her people again. 11 years had passed and it was much easier than her first transit – this time they travelled by plane, returning to London where grandma and grandpa resided.


Utah and Joy Stanley.

A joyful return to Penarth in 1977.

Of course, there was a return to Penarth to meet with some of her old friends June Mathews, Rosemary Carr and another war bride from Penarth, Betty (nee Turpitt), who resides in New York State.

June and Rosemary remained in Penarth. The four of these women all worked at Currans together during the war years.

In 1963, Steve was born, the last of the clan. In 1969, grandma Glad came to visit. That was my first time meeting her. Oh what we had missed! We made trips to visit in 1977 and 79.

Mom and dad made their last trip in October of 1981 and gran passed away that October.

Dad retired in 1982 and mom followed in about 1985. I know my dad was in love with her until his passing on September 3, 2004. Mom wept on that day like none other.

Proud of heritage

I AM so proud of my heritage. To have a proper lady in the house has been a true blessing.

Mom and dad also have two grandchildren: Trevor and Stacy Stanley.

Mom is the most gentle soul I have ever known. She loves animals and cares for all the little birds in the backyard. I would say that a good share of her pension goes to the purchase of bird seed.

She talks of the 'Old Country' quite often. She was the perfect companion for my dad and helped him through many nightmares. My father carried the war with him until his passing, like so many veterans.

Her friends abound in the Manson, Washington area. She is involved in a civic club fortnightly and is also a faithful attendant of weekly bible study.

Growing up, us kids never went without a warm hat or mittens that mom would knit for us. Actually, we never went without anything.

Thank you

"I will say thank you to the citizens of the UK for giving us one of her finest daughters. But rest assured that her love for her home country has never waned."

STEVEN STANLEY

ALL THINGS WELSH CELEBRATED BY PUPILS AT DEWI SANT (with help from their friends!)

THE staff, parents and pupils of Dewi Sant recently joined in activities to celebrate 'Wythnos Gymreig' (Welsh Week) in the school.

The children were lucky enough to receive visits from S4C's 'Heini', Mr Urdd and friends, Sam Tan and the local fire crew, along with a local harpist and a Welsh story teller.

They also dressed up as characters from a Welsh book and paid a visit to the library on World Book Day.

Fun was had during the week making Welsh cakes, Welsh love spoons and Welsh flags.

The parents also joined in the fun with a daily challenge to encourage Welsh learners, and joined in a Welsh beginners' taster session!

The staff were delighted with how the children responded to the week and with their first celebration of saint's day in the new school.

RHIAN SAMUEL

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JOSHUA FOUNDATION BENEFITS FROM THE LOCAL 'LADIES PAMPER EVENING'

A fun 'Ladies Pamper Evening' was held at the HiTide, Porthcawl, in aid of the Joshua Foundation – with everything from hair and make-up demonstrations, through to beauty treatments and everything the discerning woman needs on show.

This was complemented by a young fashion catwalk show to the delight of the crowds of mums whose children strutted their stuff.

Organisers, Debbie Lau and Sandra Owen, who have raised tens of thousands of pounds for children's charities including the Emyr Owen Branch of LATCH (Porthcawl & District) spent months organising the annual event.

Sandra Owen said: "I was overwhelmed by the support from local businesses, and in particular, Divine of John Street, Porthcawl and the public for attending the successful event."

Little Crafts of Porthcawl provided the young trendy wear for the catwalk which was showcased by the talented models of the future.

Hosts for the evening were the Bunny Boys, comprising Debbie and Sandra's sons and their friends. As well as compering the catwalk show they raised much needed funds at their raffle.

WORDS and PHOTOGRAPHS by FRANK SHIPTON

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Maicy Styles, Amy Hardy, Keenan Evans Jerome Williams and Deacon Cox from class 3 at the Easter bonnet parade.

Volunteer worker Shirley Hooper with winner Mia Lunn from class 5.

Abbie Rose, Scott Cox and Finlay Turner from class 3 at the Easter bonnet parade.

COMMUNITY NEWS from **KENFIG HILL AND PYLE**

by ***Richard Sims***

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Mobile: 07802 439679
E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

Mynydd Cynffig Infants School

ANNUAL fun competition – Shirley Hooper, who works voluntarily at the school, once again arranged the annual fun competition for the children.

This year, the Easter pick a square was won by Mia Lunn from class 5.

Playground peacemakers – After being trained as playground peacemakers, class 5 were presented with their certificates.

Easter bonnet parade – It was great to see the children with their parents, family and teachers take part and enjoying themselves in the Easter bonnet parade around the villager.

Bethel Community Church

VOICES of Praise concert – The church was full when the 'Voices of Praise Choir', a ladies' choir from Swansea, led by their musical director Alwin Richards, sang a mixture of hymns and well-known songs at a concert held there recently.

Everyone enjoyed a great evening of entertainment and most of all, a collection of £262 was raised and donated to a local charity who are doing excellent work for people of all ages in Kenfig Hill; the Talbot Community Centre in Prince Road.

Everyone at the Talbot would like to pass on their thanks for the efforts made by Bethel Church, as it is donations such as this that help keep the centre such a vibrant place.

Old girls' reunion

GARW Grammar School – Cassandra, along with Gloria and Glenys, classmates at the Garw Grammar School in 1955, are still trying to catch up with old school friends for a reunion they plan for Friday June 29 at Kenfig Hill Rugby Club.

If you are one of the (not so old) girls and would like to meet up for a good night out, then call Gloria Davies (nee Morgan) on 01639 776805.

Parish of Pyle and Kenfig

THE Foodbank – The church would like to remind residents that they are still collecting for people in real need, who cannot afford food.

There are baskets in both St James and St Mary Magdalene Churches.

Annual Vestry Meeting – This meeting, which was held recently, was well attended.

All those who work so hard for the parish were thanked and everyone also thanked David Davies and his team for their work. The wardens and PCC were thanked for their enormous contribution to the parish.

Lenten lunches – These have gone tremendously well.

Thanks are passed to those who have staged them and to those who came. More than £150 was raised last Friday.

St Mary Magdalene open days will take place on the May 18/19/20 this year.

It should be a great summer event which can be enjoyed by the whole parish.

Good Friday – The march of witness will start at 10am from Heathbridge Surgery, Kenfig Hill to the church hall in Pyle for hot cross buns.

This will be followed by a devotional service in St Magdalene Church, Mawdlam at 12 noon, and St James Church, Pyle at 2pm.

Mynydd Cynffig Junior School

MANY congratulations to the following pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week: Leah Knott – class 1, Teilan Lovelock – class 2, Heather Phillips – class 3, Shauna Lewis – class 4, Ben Evans – class 5, Leon Jones and Mali Llewellyn – class 6 and Jack Tossell – class 7.

The headteacher's award went to the following: Cerys Phillips, Anwen Sleath, Jasmin Delbridge, Jack Underhill, Charlotte Coleman, Lowri Homas, Senem Akpinar, William Underhill and Harry Sleath.

Inter-school matches – The school played away to Maes-yr-Haul Primary School in the quarter-final of the Illtyd Williams Cup on Friday March 23.

The team began the game poorly, soon finding themselves seven points down from a controversial try, which was converted.

Despite not playing their best, Leon Jones managed to cross the line for a try, which Luke Dingle converted to equalise.

However, by half time the school were once again behind when Maes-yr-Haul scored another converted try.

In the second half, the school stepped up their game and played a lot better, and it wasn't long before Phillip Burnell scored, with Luke again converting to draw the scores level.

That was how it all ended.

They will now have to play the return at home next term.

There was a continuing improvement from the 'A' netball team, with Senem Akpinar and Megan Stevens scoring all the goals in a very impressive 19-5 win.

To achieve this, the rest of the team, consisting of: Elisha Owen, Anwen Sleath, Manna Jones, Jasmin Delbridge and Jade Walker, also played extremely well.

Unfortunately, the 'B' team lost 9-0. However, there were some promising contributions from the year-5 girls and hopefully they will develop their skills for next year.

Cross-country racing – Well done and congratulations to William Underhill, Senem Akpinar, Harry Sleath and Lowri Thomas for making the effort to race for the school in the cross-country event on Saturday March 24 at Ogmore Comprehensive School.

Football quarter-final – On Monday March 26, the school football team played Pencoed Primary School at home in the quarter-final of the Bridgend Cup. In the first half, Pencoed were much stronger and the school were forced to defend, and although Phillip Burnell made some good saves, they eventually broke the defence and scored.

Pencoed also managed to score again before half-time, giving them a 2-0 lead going into the second half.

After the break, the team suddenly came to life and started to dominate the play with Ben Evans and Luke Dingle looking dangerous and unleashing some good shots on target.

However, with time running out and the school still failing to score, their defence were caught out by a through ball which saw Pencoed scoring to win 3-0.

Although Phillip Burnell made excellent saves, Ben Evans, who is still only in year-5, was the 'man of the match'.

Individual achievements – Three pupils, Phillip Burnell, Ben Evans and Senem Akpinar, are developing their skills in rugby, basketball and netball outside of the school.

Phillip took part in the west Wales rugby trial and has succeeded in getting through to the final trial. The whole school would like to wish Phillip well and hope that he is picked for the west Wales squad to follow in the footsteps of his brother Anthony, who was chosen last year.

Ben Evans is playing basketball with the Welsh development squad, having succeeded in getting into the squad two years early. Ben is good at all sport and is to be congratulated on his achievement.

Senem Akpinar, who is only in year-6, is playing netball with the Porthcawl Mermaids, a team of year-7 and 8 girls. This is a tremendous achievement by Senem and she is wished all the best for the forthcoming tournament.

POLICE WARN YOUNG DRIVERS

POLICE and Fire and Rescue officers in Bridgend are working together to provide road safety advice with a difference to young drivers in the town.

Officers made a special visit to the Rhiw car park recently, a popular hang out for young motor fanatics from the area, in order to engage with the youngsters and ensure they know how to stay safe on the roads.

Youngsters were given the opportunity to take a look around the Fire Service and Road Traffic Collision Reduction Team's special Ford Focus ST.

The young motorists even got to test out the car's flashy technology, including a flat screen TV, sound system and driving exercise computer.

RTC reduction officers were also on hand to provide a few helpful driving tips to the youngsters and answer their questions.

One young driver said: "The hazard game is good, but I'm pretty surprised at the score I had and the number of hazards I missed. It shows I need to be looking out more when I'm driving".

Ian Buckley, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Station Manager, said: "Engagement activities like this are really important as we get to speak with young drivers and raise their awareness of road safety".

PCSO Christian Freeth from Bridgend Police said: It was great to get to know these youngsters, provide them with driving advice and talk to them about a subject they're clearly passionate about."

Catch up and play sessions cancelled

THE Catch up and Play group that meets at Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major, will not be holding any sessions on Easter Monday due to bank holiday restrictions.

Nuclear debate in Porthcawl

SUSTAINABLE Wales is holding a friendly, non-technical debate on UK nuclear power, at 8pm, Friday, April 6 at 8pm in The Green Room, 41 John Street Porthcawl.

It will be led by Dr Steve Harris of the Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems. Other guest contributors include Dr Philippa Winkler and Daniel Robicheau.

Entrance to the public is by donation to Sustainable Wales.

Dr Steven Harris BSc, PhD is a Research Fellow at the Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems, Bristol.

Philippa Winkler and Daniel Robicheau are researchers and writers in the area of environmental politics and international relations.

Bridgend youngsters embrace community football scheme

A SPORTS initiative helping turn around the lives of teenagers across the south Wales valleys over the past five years has been extended to Bridgend.

Boys Cup winners Llangeinor Communities First.

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust's (CRT) Game On Football League is aimed at disaffected youngsters in former mining communities who may have become more interested in alcohol and anti-social behaviour than living a healthy lifestyle.

The project has seen hundreds of young footballers compete in Friday evening competitions for the right to represent Wales in a home internationals tournament against England and Scotland.

Co-ordinated by the Cambrian Village Trust in Tonypandy, the scheme encourages boys and girls aged between 14 and 19 to take part in five-a-side leagues set up in Communities First areas.

There has been a home international tournament for the past four years, and a grant of £97,000 from Comic Relief last year allowed the setting up of a full league structure.

After successfully attracting enough participants in Bridgend, Game On recently hosted both a Boys' and Girls' Challenge Cup event, competed for by 11 teams.

The boys' competition was a whitewash for Cornelly Communities First and Llangeinor Communities First, who after dominating the group stages found themselves through to the final.

It took a sudden death penalty shootout to secure Llangeinor the victory after a 2-2 scoreline.

The girls' event consisted of skills training, followed by a similar Cup format that was convincingly won by Valleys United from Rhondda, who triumphed 2-1 in the final against Llangeinor Communities First.

If you would like more information on the programme or on how you can get involved in your community, visit www.gameonwales.org.

40 YEARS' SERVICE FOR ALLAN

KENFIG Hill AFC recently honoured Mr Allan Brookes for 40 years service as the secretary of the club with a celebration evening held at Kenfig Hill RFC.

Past and present players, his family and invited guests attended the evening and were entertained by top comedian Colin Price.

There is no doubt that every football club up and down the country would love to have an Allan Brookes in their midst as he is one of a kind.

His dedication and commitment to Kenfig Hill FC, spanning over half a century will never be equalled.

Allan has had a long and distinguished career both on and off the field, serving the club as a player, captain, committee member, treasurer and life member, filling every role to the highest standard and with the utmost integrity since 1958.

He has also been a member of the South Wales Amateur League Management Committee since 1975 and was made a life member in 1996.

Kenfig Hill have been very fortunate to not only benefit from his love of football but from being at the forefront in helping the club to develop and progress.

Through his efforts the club now have superb changing facilities, which have been approved by the Welsh League, floodlights, and their own minibus. Such facilities are hard to come by in this day and age, but Allan's efforts in getting the funding have been a major factor in them progressing as a club.

Kenfig Hill AFC would like to thank him for his commitment and dedication and for being such a good ambassador for the club.

RICHARD SIMS

Busy times for ladies!

On March 14, the Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club Ladies section hosted a very successful coffee Morning and nine-hole individual Stableford competition.

There were three prizes for visitors and three for members. Visitors' prizes went to Pat Jones, Pontardawe (1st), Carol Davies, Pontardawe (2nd) and Sonia Peters, Grove (3rd).

Members' prizes were won by Cora Edwards (1st), Annette Rhys (2nd) and Lyn Lloyd (3rd).

On March 23, the section held its annual dinner. The ladies were entertained by a pantomime and danced to music by a female vocal duo, Two 4 the Road.

The results of the annual winter eclectic competition and the winner of the Birdie Tree were also announced at this event.

The eclectic was won by Annette Rhys (pictured receiving her award), runner-up was Cheryl Bird and the Birdie Tree prize was awarded to Alison Hurry.

The first competition of the season was the Clifford Cup, a draw for partners foursomes competition.

The winners were the lady captain, Teri Ward, and Irene Jones with 38 points, and the runners up were Anita Evans and Annette Rhys; Cora Edwards also had a hole in one.

Wednesday, March 28 was the Cancer Relief Spoon and Evans Cup. The Cancer Relief Spoon was won by Annette Rhys with 45 points, runner up – Sonia Vincent, and the Evans Cup was won by Sonia Vincent with 45 points, runner up Cora Edwards.

Pyle and Kenfig welcomes all golfers and the course is open all year round.

Contact: www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk, or: secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk.

AE

Athletic under-10s pipped in a real thriller

ATH under-10s welcomed a small Mumbles squad to Newbridge Fields.

From the start, Mumbles used quick hands and ran in the first score. Ath found themselves under pressure again and drove out of defence through Iwan Hill and Emyr Anthony.

Great awareness from Bobby Bromley released Owen Thomas, who ran the length of the pitch to score the Ath's first try, converted by Tom Jones to level the game.

Strong running from the visitors saw them retake the lead. From the next play, Mumbles intercepted and scored another.

Ath tried to push the ball, wide but the visitors defensive line was swift to respond. From a set piece, Owen Thomas did well to find space and scored a great try, converted by Sam Stradling.

Mumbles again threw the ball using the full width of the pitch and scored a well worked try. Ath now stepped up the pace, strong running from Josh Llewellyn and Jules Burn giving Ath good field position.

Mumbles stole the ball but good defence from Dewi Harding and Jack Pitts forced them into touch. Ath drove out of defence through Pitts and Isaac Watkins.

Mumbles regained possession, Blake Dando this time stepping up in defence. Good pressure from Kieran Richards and Morgan Bennett in midfield pushed the visitors back.

Mumbles again threw the ball wide, but great cover from Pitts and Richards forced the turnover. Ath tried to run from their own line but lost possession.

Mumbles were quick to counter and scored in the corner. From the restart, Ath drove hard through Llewellyn, as good support from Sam Ralph and Watkins saw the Ath come close.

From the next phase, Llewellyn powered through the defence to score a superb try, converted by Sam Ralph.

In the second half the Ath took the ball forward through Kieran Richards; Sam Ralph providing the link for Tom Jones to make good ground.

A turnover was quickly recycled by the visitors, who released their speedster to run in their next score.

Mumbles pressed again, and good defence from Richards and Harding in the corner forced the turnover.

Bobby Bromley showed his strength making hard yards, with good support from Dylan Hill.

Quick ball from Bennett to Owen Thomas put the Ath into the visitors' 22, and great work at the ruck from Watkins secured the ball. Liam Gully straightened headlong into the defence, Jack Pitts was up next and ran a lovely line to the corner, taking defenders with him to score a great try, converted by Blake Dando.

From the restart, Mumbles were pushing the Ath line, the defence held well, and a great steal at the ruck from Isaac Watkins gave Morgan Bennett a chance to clear their lines; the Ath were slow to chase the kick, Mumbles ran straight back and scored.

Credit to the Ath team, they never gave up and ran back at the visitors through Dan Leyshon, Bennett again putting in a good clearance kick. This time, the Ath chased in numbers, the ball fell nicely for Jules Burn who made good ground.

The next phase saw Bennett throw a wide ball to Sam Stradling, who somehow managed to dance up the touchline, and evade the visitors defence to give the Ath the final score.

Final score: Ath under-10s 33 – Mumbles under-10s 43.

Border raids by Vale trainers!

EVAN WILLIAMS, who trains at Llancarfan, and Tim Vaughan, who trains at Aberthin, both saddled winners at Hereford last week.

Tim was successful in the novices' handicap hurdle with seven-year-old *Mrs Peacock* (Aidan Coleman), and Evan with seven-year-old *Bruslin*i (T J O'Brien) in the novices' chase.

The former won by a head from *Drummers Drumming* and the latter scored by 12 lengths from *Earth Planet*.

BRIAN LEE

Stuart is the Ath's player of the month

STUART Edbrooke started playing in the Bridgend Athletic junior section at the age of 13, playing through the age groups.

He played in the most successful Athletic youth side that won both the Welsh Cup and Welsh league and captained the youth side the following season when they again won the Welsh youth Cup.

Following his youth days he went to Australia and played there for a year.

This is his first season in Athletic senior rugby. He started off in the highly successful 2nd XV and was soon promoted to the 1st XV, where he has played very consistently at flanker.

He had a very impressive game against Neath, scoring the first Athletic try when they went very close to a Swalec Cup upset. His consistency made him the Nathaniel Car Sales BARFC Player of February.

He is seen receiving the keys for a loan of a Mitsubishi L200 Car from Rebecca Evans, Nathaniel Car Sales customer care manager.

AB

Phoenix win over Gorseinon

PENCOED Phoenix made their intentions plain at the first scrummage, shunting Gorseinon off the ball.

Phoenix were creating early chances, however after dominating the opening 20 minutes the score remained 0-0.

The visitors by now had reverted to passive scrums, and this has now become a frustrating pattern with opposition sides choosing this option against a strong Phoenix scrum.

Following sustained pressure in the visitors' 22, Phoenix flanker Amy Stevens was put in possession by back row collegue Natalie O'Shea and Stevens outflanked the Gorseinon cover to score; Lauren Robson converted.

Phoenix continued on the attack in the Gorseinon 22 and a well-timed pass from front five forward Leigh Francis, acting as the link, saw Robson feed Stevens who crossed for her second try. Robson added the extras with a fine conversion and Phoenix led at the break 14-0.

Robson kicked a penalty early in the second half before Gorseinon opened their account with a converted try.

O'Shea then put any thoughts of a Gorseinon comeback to bed, storming in from 30 metres, the Ospreys player running with determination written all over her face; Robson converted. To their credit Gorseinon came back and got a consolation score for a final scoreline of 24-12.

This was a most satisfying win for Phoenix, who had been desperately unlucky to lose in the closing moments at Gorseinon earlier in the season.

The win was once again based on a solid forward platform, mixed with a determined defence. Flanker Nat O'Shea was chosen by Gorseinon as Phoenix player of the match, with a number of her team mates in the running. Jo Poupon just one doing very well in the unfamiliar role of scrum half.

On Sunday Phoenix travel to Whitland in the league.

TR

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Family Notices

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Funeral Service at Margam Crematorium on Wednesday, 11th April 2012 at 12 noon.
Family flowers only.

KING
Stephen John
Peacefully on March 27th at UHW, Cardiff, Stephen of Rhoose. Dearly loved father of Stephanie and Jessica and stepfather of Jackie and Sion, much loved by all his grandchildren. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Wednesday, April 11th, service and cremation 11.30am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

BRADLEY
Liz
The families of Colin Bradley and the late Hubert Thomas wish to thank relatives and friends for their kindness and sympathy shown during the recent sad loss of Liz, also for the many cards and messages that they have received.
Thanks also to Thomas Brothers funeral directors for their consideration and help.

O'LEARY
Peter
The O'Leary Family would like to thank all friends and relatives for all their cards, donations and floral tributes on the recent passing of their beloved Peter.
A very special thank you to the Harley Davidson Chapter who turned out in force and to all the doctors and nurses who helped to nurse Peter in his final weeks.

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Anniversaries

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DARREN BAKER
on
9th April 2012
Lots of Love, Sue, Joe, Abigail and all the family
x x x x

Happy 100th Birthday
WINNIE HUISH
on April 8th, 2012
Have a wonderful day!
Lots of love, Nina & Pete and all the family in Llantwit Major x x x

WENDY HAVARD
Happy Birthday Mum!

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All our love April, Warren and Carl, and all your grandchildren and great grandchildren xxxx

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VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL	CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982	**DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL (DARPARIAETHAU AMRYWIOL) 1982**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Vale of Glamorgan Council intends after the expiry of the period mentioned below to apply to the Welsh Ministers for confirmation of the byelaws made by the Council.	**HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN BOD** Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn bwriadu gwneud cais i Weinidogion Cymru am gadarnhad o'r is-ddeddfau a wnaed gan y Cyngor wedi i'r cyfnod isod ddod i ben.
On 7th March 2012 Vale of Glamorgan Council ("the Council") passed a resolution that the provisions of Part VIII of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 shall apply to the Vale of Glamorgan Council.	Ar 7 Mawrth 2012, pasiodd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg ("y Cyngor") gynnig y bydd darpariaethau Rhan VIII Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Darpariaethau Amrywiol) 1982 yn berthnasol i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg.
The new model byelaws will ensure the medical risks associated with acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis are effectively controlled and reflect current infection control advice and industry best practice.	Bydd yr is-ddeddfau enghreifftiol newydd yn sicrhau bod y peryglon meddygol sy'n gysylltiedig ag aciwbigo, tat io, lliwio croen lled-barhaol, gwanu cosmetig ac electrolysis yn cael eu rheoli'n effeithiol ac yn adlewyrchu arferion gorau'r diwydiant a chyngor cyfredol ar reoli heintiau.
The byelaws have been made under section 14 and 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.	Lluniwyd yr is-ddeddfau o dan adrannau 14 ac 15 Deddf Llywodraeth Leol (Darpariaethau Amrywiol) 1982.
Copies of the byelaws will be kept at the offices of the Council at: **Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.**	Bydd copïau o'r is-ddeddfau'n cael eu cadw yn swyddfeydd y Cyngor yn: **Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfeydd y Cyngor, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.**
The byelaws will be open to inspection without payment on any weekday during the usual office hours for one calendar month from the date of the first publication of this notice. Copies of the byelaws will also be supplied on receipt of an application accompanied by a fee of £2.68 for each copy.	Gellir gweld yr is-ddeddfau yn ddi-dâl ar unrhyw ddiwrnod yn ystod yr wythnos yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol am un mis o ddyddiad cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn am y tro cyntaf. Bydd copïau o'r is-ddeddfau hefyd ar gael i'w prynu am £2.68 y copi ond bydd rhaid i chi wneud cais am hynny.
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Fog doesn't cool the on-track action at Llandow Karting Club

THE second round of Llandow Kart Club's summer championship was blessed with a 79-strong entry on a weekend of warm sunshine when even a coastal fog – which threatened to obscure the furthest reaches of the circuit ahead of the finals – could not cool the action on-track.

The Bambino class boasted a couple of additions over the February meeting, but that did not stop Jakob Chamberlain and Shayne Clarke from dominating the heats.

The same pair proved closely matched in the final outing of the day, with Clarke taking the honours by less than a tenth of a second. Jack Broughton was next up, ahead of Brooklyn Thomas, Oliver Thomas and Owain Rees.

The combined Cadet classes again provided a fine sight as no fewer than 25 karts took to the track during the day.

Tom Rawlings twice led the way in Comer, with Lewis Griffiths taking the other heat, before Rawlings edged the battle in the main event, leading Griffiths across the line by 0.6 seconds – with the best of the Honda-powered karts between them.

Honda honours were shared between Ross Thomas, Ethan Ling and Joshua Martin in the heats, before Thomas returned to top spot in the final.

Daniel Thomas claimed second place in class, just ahead of Ling and Alex Rees, while Hugo Holmes also came home ahead of Martin.

All four drivers from February's opener returned to do battle in Honda Junior, but Ben Stevens still proved unbeatable, winning each heat and the final by an average of 10 seconds.

Tom Ford and Thomas Croydon shared the role of runner-up in the heats, before Croydon cruised to second place in the final.

While the lone Minimax entrant moved to run with the Junior Max class, Junior TKM had the track to itself, Ross Chell claiming victory in each of the three heats.

Ryan Edwards and Louis Griffith-Walker shared second place in the qualifying races, before the former emerged as Chell's biggest rival in the final.

However, when their battle got too close, Chell was left as a spectator as Griffith-Walker came through to claim the victory. Phillips was ideally placed to inherit second place, ahead of Niall Williams.

Junior Rotax saw the emergence of Rob Ellis as frontrunner in the absence of Steven Handford, the Minimax graduate winning the day's four races. Novice Toby Allen claimed second each time, and closed the margin with every outing, eventually coming home just 0.4secs shy of Ellis in the final.

Thomas Stride claimed the final place on the podium, as he had in two of the three heats, with fellow rookies Elliot Hagerty and Oliver O'Flaherty battling throughout.

At first glance, reigning champion Simon Evans appeared to have things mostly his own way in Senior Honda, despite having to settle for fourth in heat two as, in his own words, things got "a little physical".

Order was restored in the main event, as Evans and main rival Gareth Lewis moved to the front, only for Lewis to spin in front of the pack exiting The Dell.

Emerging unscathed, the multiple champion raced back through the pack to claim third place, but could not deny Danny Griffiths the runners-up spot behind Evans.

The returning Ferdinand Ball – who hopes to compete at as many rounds as possible in 2012 – claimed fourth, ahead of Nicholas Rees and Jamie Warren, as the class again boasted a double-figure entry.

Senior Rotax numbers were also healthy, with 15 runners across two weight classes, but Josh Collings, who similarly dominated the opening round in February, was in no mood to share the honours, claiming three wins on the day; only ceding top spot to David Entwistle in heat two by a single second.

Unstoppable in the final, Collings romped away to win by five seconds from Chris Davis, while Entwistle rounded out his most successful weekend in the class by holding on to third from Matthew Dowers. Sebastian Hutchinson rounded out the top five ahead of Dilip Singh.

Wayne Stone again took control of the Max 177 class, winning on each outing over regular rival Simon Wheeler and newcomer Ian Hawksworth.

Results:

BAMBINO
1. Shayne Clarke (Zip)
2. Jakob Chamberlain (Birel)
3. Jack Broughton (Birel)

CADET COMER
1. Tom Rawlings (Zip)
2. Lewis Griffiths (Zip)
3. Kieron Clarke (Zip)

CADET HONDA
1. Ross Thomas (Wright)
2. Daniel Thomas (Project One)
3. Ethan Ling (Project One)

JUNIOR HONDA
1. Ben Stevens (7Kart)
2. Thomas Croydon (Jade)
3. Tom Ford (Biz)

JUNIOR TKM
1. Louis Griffith-Walker (Jade)
2. Joe Phillips (Jade)
3. Niall Williams (Intrepid)

MINI MAX
1. Jodie Handford (Tonykart)

JUNIOR ROTAX
1. Rob Ellis
2. Toby Allen (CRG)
3. Thomas Stride (CRG)

SENIOR HONDA
1. Simon Evans (7Kart)
2. Danny Griffiths (MS)
3. Gareth Lewis (7Kart)

SENIOR ROTAX
1. Josh Collings (CRG)
2. Chris Davis (CRG)
3. David Entwistle (Kosmic)

ROTAX 177
1. Wayne Stone (Tonykart)
2. Simon Wheeler (CRG)
3. Ian Hawksworth (Gillard)

Craig Llewellyn

Nick wins with Tin Pot Man!

OGMORE'S Nick Williams, who had a hat-trick at the recent Glamorgan Hunt steeplechases, landed the opener at Taunton last Thursday on the Evan Williams-trained Tin Pot Man which came home two and three quarter lengths ahead of Rifleman.

Later in the day, Tim Vaughan won with Caravel, which went off the 5-4 favourite, and was ridden by Richard Johnson.

Both Williams and Vaughan had across the card doubles as at Ludlow Vaughan won with Postmaster and Williams with Court Minstrel.

Postmaster was ridden by Vaughan's promising young amateur rider Bradley Gibbs and Court Minstrel by Paul Moloney.

Matthew Barber, who also rides out for aughan, was successful on Sirrel Griffiths' U B Careful, which sadly dropped dead on his way to the winner's enclosure.

Meanwhile, Timeform has launched their latest 'Horses to Follow' publication, containing 50 of the best prospects for 2012 chosen by Timeform's experts, plus big-name interviews and much, much more. It's out now in good time for the Guineas, and still only £8.95. **BRIAN LEE**

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Athletic's run of form continues

BRIDGEND Athletic's run of form continued with their fourth successive league win and third successive win with a bonus point.

They repeated last Saturday's six tries at Llangennech with another sixer as they recorded a seasonal double over Waunarlwydd with a 44-27 victory.

The Athletic started off full of confidence and opened the scoring when Griff Davies won turnover ball and Aled Thomas released the backs for full back Jonathon Phillips to enter the line at pace and create an overlap to put wing James Olds over in the corner.

They thought they had a second a few minutes later when Thomas made a break and passed inside to No8 Dan Apsee to gallop over.

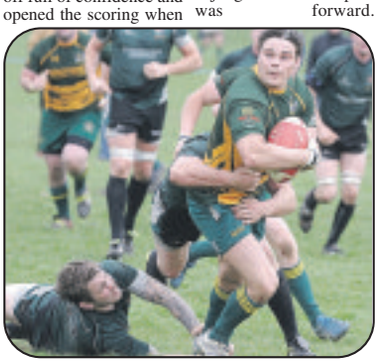
However the referee adjudged the final pass was forward. Waunarlwydd were proving a tough nut to crack with a well organised defence. Also, the Athletic were trying to force the game with off the cuff play instead of a more structured approach.

Waunarlwydd then hit back with a try from flanker Guy Jones who picked up the ball from a scrum on the Athletic 22 and ran in under the posts without an Athletic hand touching him.

Outside half John Davies converted. He followed this with a monster penalty from halfway following an Athletic infringement at a ruck to put the visitors 10-5 ahead.

Sustained Athletic pressure saw a quickly rucked ball travel from Thomas to outside half Stephen Lewis who popped a short pass to hooker Simon Mustoe to run in from 30 metres.

Lewis converted to put the Athletic 12-10 ahead. The Athletic then won possession against the throw from a lineout on the Waunarlwydd 22.



Centre Michael Hathaway looks to offload from a tackle.

BRIDGEND ATHLETIC 44
WAUNARLWYDD 27

Scrum half Aled Thomas had a snipe before quick ball through the hands of centres Michael Hathaway and Tom Goodwin released wing Rhys Jones to run in from 22 metres to give the Athletic a 17-10 half time lead.

Early in the second half the Athletic put a lot of pressure on the visitors. They were softened up by a series of five-metre scrums in which the Athletic front row of Rod Apsee, Simon Mustoe and Rod Jones gave their opponents a torrid time.

With Waunarlwydd forced to stay down to prevent a pushover try, quick ball from Thomas to Lewis saw the outside half put a well-judged grubber kick over the try line for wing Rhys Jones to claim his second try of the game and 12th of the season.

It also guaranteed the Athletic a try bonus point. Lewis converted to extend the lead to 24-10.

Waunarlwydd hit back when the Athletic failed to deal with a high punt into their 22. The ball ran loose and prop Tom Gronow had the simplest of tries.

The Athletic responded with a 40 metre penalty by Lewis. Flanker Dan Apsee then broke the first line of defence and found full back Jonathon Phillips on his shoulder.

Phillips showed a clean pair of heels to the defence to race 35 metres to the try line. Lewis converted and then added a second penalty from the touchline.

Kyle Galtry won good line out ball and quick passing from the half backs and centres saw Phillips enter the line on half way who again showed great pace to outstrip the Waunarlwydd cover to cross under the posts.

Scrum half Aled Thomas makes a break with Michael Hathaway and Dan Apsee in support. PHOTOS BY GLENNSPORTS

Lewis converted to stretch the lead to 44-15 with just five minutes remaining.

To their credit Waunarlwydd never gave up and as the Athletic took their foot off the pedal they ran in two late tries from lock Ed Bennett and wing Lee Evans.

Davies converted one to make the final score 44-27 to the Athletic.

In an all round team performance Jonathon Phillips, Tom Goodwin, Rhys Jones and Aled Thomas stood out in the backs with Simon Mustoe, Tom Penry-Ellis, Stuart Edbrooke, Griff Davies and Dan Apsee standing out at forward. Late on, youth prop Tom Evans came on for his first team debut.

This Saturday the Athletic host Ammanford before completing their season with a home local derby against Tondu the following week

The club would like to thank John and Evan David for sponsoring the match and Jerome Matthias of Centre Great for sponsoring the match ball.

AB

Pencoed earn good win

PENCOED conceded a number of penalties in the opening minutes in this encounter with Aberavon Green Stars.

Home centre Keiron Mattocke kicked his side into a 6-0 lead. Pencoed then opened their account with a try in the left hand corner following a strong scrummage drive.

Green Stars got a try to lead 11-5 after 18 minutes, before Pencoed proceeded to dominate for most of the match, playing superb attacking rugby.

Following a series of thrusts second row Chris Howells drove across, Marc Davies adding the conversion.

Pencoed wing Richie Samuel set up the next score, beating a number of players before skipper Ken Morris was set free on the outside to run in; Davies converted.

Another sweeping attack from Pencoed saw the ball moved to full back Glen Hiscocks who outpaced the covering defence from 50 metres, Davies converted and Pencoed led at the break 14-26.

Pencoed started the second half where they had left off, a 70-metre try sparked off by Morris, centre Lloyd Ryl taking up the running before Samuel was sent sprinting in; Davies converted.

Pencoed's next score came after some good ripping work from Aaron Halse, the ball then moved swiftly across the backs for Morris to race away; Davies converted.

Left wing Liam Halse then ran in from 30 metres for Pencoed to lead 14-45. Shortly after entering the action Aaron Songhurst picked a great angle onto a Morris pass to score, Morris converting.

No8 Aaron Halse got the next, running in from 40 metres, which Morris converted and Pencoed finished in style.

Ryland broke from deep in his own territory and several pairs of hands later Ryan Wallis finished under the posts, Ryland converting for a 66-14 win.

Having amassed 130 points in the last two matches Pencoed realise they face a much sterner test on Saturday against current league leaders Seven Sisters.

TR

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